

00140

1 EASTERN INTERIOR
2 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
3 PUBLIC MEETING

4
5 VOLUME II

6
7 March 26, 2003
8 9:00 a.m.
9 Nenana Community Hall
10 Nenana, Alaska

11
12
13 COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

14
15 Gerald Nicholia, Chair
16 Sue Entsminger
17 Allen J. Stevens
18 Jim Wilde
19 Virgil Umphenour
20 Larry Williams
21 Tricia Waggoner
22 Philip Titus
23
24
25 Regional Coordinator, Donald Mike

00141

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 (Nenana, Alaska - 2/26/2003)

4

5 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'll call the meeting
6 back to order.

7

8 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, yesterday we got
9 done with wildlife proposals and the next item on the
10 agenda is fisheries topics. If you look in Tab C we have
11 the results of the Federal Subsistence Board actions, the
12 .805c letter. Basically it tells what the Federal
13 Subsistence Board did on the fisheries proposals. And if
14 the Council has any particular questions I, or one of my
15 fisheries Staff will be happy to answer the questions on
16 the .805c letter, it's Tab C, Page 223.

17

18 Basically it's just a letter to inform
19 what the Federal Subsistence Board did and their actions
20 taken on the fisheries proposals from our October
21 meeting.

22

23 Mr. Chair, do you want me to go through
24 each item or just for the actions that the Board took on
25 the .805c letter? It's pretty explanatory, just the
26 actions taken by the Board at their last meeting.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think we could just
29 go through whoever's here to present something and go
30 that route. If it's just more informing us what's going
31 on that will be all right.

32

33 MS. PETRIVELLI: Excuse me, Mr. Chair. I
34 was looking -- we're doing the .805c letter, and for the
35 consent agenda items for the Copper River, it says it's
36 true they adopted the recommendations on the consent
37 agenda, but the recommendations were to reject those two
38 proposals, that added Delta Junction. And then so there
39 were no communities added to the C&T determinations for
40 Copper River. And I think your Council rejected both of
41 those and that's how they were on the consent agenda. So
42 just as a clarification, they did adopt the consent
43 agenda items, which rejected those proposals.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, there's no action
48 required on this .805 letter, it's just informational.
49 If you'd like we can continue on through the agenda. The
50 next agenda item is the report on the meeting with the

00142

1 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and Staff and
2 others. Back in November, representatives from the
3 Eastern, Western and Yukon-Delta and Kodiak Advisory
4 Committee met with the representatives from the North
5 Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the United
6 Catchers Pollock Fisheries representatives, and basically
7 it was just an information meeting, exchange of
8 information between the subsistence users and the North
9 Pacific Management Council and United Catcher boats. And
10 it was just a meeting to get a dialogue going with these
11 entities.

12

13 Representatives from these councils had a
14 chance to talk to the North Pacific Fisheries Management
15 Council and the United Catcher boats. I've sent all that
16 information to all the Council members and Gerald and
17 some other Council members were present and the meeting
18 was very informational and the Council members really
19 appreciated the time in which the North Pacific Fisheries
20 Management Council presented the information to the
21 Council members and a lot of questions were answered at
22 that time.

23

24 So if you have any other information that
25 you would like to share with the Council, Mr. Chair, that
26 would be fine but otherwise we can continue on with the
27 agenda.

28

29 The only person that did not receive the
30 background information was the new Council members and I
31 can send the information to the new Council members as
32 far as the data presented.

33

34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I was at that
35 meeting with the North Pacific Fisheries Management
36 Council. It was very informal, it was good to know that
37 they're finding new ways in their bottom -- deep sea
38 bottom trawler to not catch so much chum salmon and other
39 salmon when they're trawling. It's good to know -- it
40 was to share our points of view about how important the
41 salmon is to these people in the Upper Yukon -- in the
42 whole Yukon. It was good to sit at the table face to
43 face with them and talk and then not just be talking
44 through the phone or something else, on the internet.

45

46 MR. MIKE: If there's no other questions,
47 Mr. Chair, we can continue on through the agenda.

48

49 (No comments)

50

00143

1 MR. MIKE: The next item on our agenda is
2 the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the ACRs discussion on the
3 regulatory proposals schedules. I just got a fax in this
4 morning from Pete Probasco, from our office summarizing
5 the results of the Board of Fish on Proposals 462 and
6 463. And I think Jerry is going to -- Mr. Berg will
7 present information or just take some questions.

8

9 MR. BERG: I think Russ will do that.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Or Russ Holder.

12

13 MR. HOLDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My name
14 is Russ Holder. I'm with Fish and Wildlife Service, the
15 Yukon River in-season manager. And I attended the Board
16 of Fisheries meeting yesterday in Anchorage for their
17 deliberations and basically Proposal 462 which Virgil
18 Umphenour had submitted was discussed and the Board of
19 Fisheries opted to defer action on that proposal, which
20 means that this will stay on their agenda for the next
21 Board cycle, for their full AYK meeting, which is coming
22 up this next year. So what they were looking for is to
23 ensure that full discussion regarding the windows,
24 subsistence fishing periods were more fully discussed by
25 both the RACS, advisory committees and other interested
26 individuals.

27

28 And for this upcoming season, the Board
29 of Fish did accept Proposal 463, which I believe Jerry
30 Berg has given you an e-mail from Pete Probasco which
31 identifies that if the in-season run strength indicates
32 that there's a sufficient abundance of king salmon to
33 allow a commercial fishery in that district or
34 subdistrict, subsistence fishing shall revert to the
35 fishing periods as specified in 5 AAC 01.210(c) through
36 (h), which basically means that the way the commercial,
37 you know, if there's enough king salmon for a commercial
38 fishery to happen, that it will very likely happen in a
39 similar manner in which the fishery happened this past
40 season in 2002.

41

42 What happens after the season, this past
43 year in 2002, it went back to the windows subsistence
44 fishing schedule. With this regulation, it -- the
45 subsistence fishing could either go to the five days a
46 week, which happened -- which would be consistent with
47 the 5 AAC 01.210 which has happened previously. In my
48 discussions with Fish and Game, the decision on whether
49 to return to the windowed subsistence fishing period or
50 revert to the five day or seven day a week after

00144

1 commercial would likely be dependent upon the strength of
2 the individual fish runs.

3

4 But the regulations now for this upcoming
5 season has provided clarification on what Fish and Game
6 is to -- what regulation they're to be following if a
7 commercial fishery is prosecuted for king salmon.

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, you guys
10 always manage this fishery on the Yukon River as if and
11 without really strong evidence. That thing at Pilot
12 Station, that ain't even really accurate. And this if
13 management in the commercial fishery, you know, it's
14 always going to happen at the mouth. This if management
15 doesn't work for up river people, and I already told you
16 that in Kotlik. If this -- if you fish on stocks of
17 concerns like the king salmon, and you allow a commercial
18 fishery and no matter which way it goes, either at the
19 windows or back to the five days, and then you guys say
20 you're on a 20 year building plan for this fishery, but
21 it seems like we're just going backwards every year,
22 we're not going forward. The stocks are getting
23 depleted. And you allow commercial fishing. And then
24 these people, who we represent, we get cut off every
25 year, and, yeah, we caught some king salmon last year but
26 we didn't meet our needs like some of your surveys said.

27

28 And you guys got to do way better than if
29 management. I should have been at that board meeting but
30 I didn't have no time.

31

32 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate
33 your comments. And I do agree that the largest, I mean
34 the biggest significant decision that has to be made is
35 whether there's sufficient fish to meet the escapement
36 and then whether there's sufficient fish to meet the
37 subsistence needs of people up the river. And one of the
38 reasons we have the weekly YRDFA teleconferences it to
39 have people provide input on, you know, where they're at
40 in meeting their subsistence needs and I hope that people
41 will use that and participate in the teleconferences.
42 And I mean we're trying to ensure that with these low
43 fish runs that we have that we do make, you know, the
44 right decisions, if you will, as far as ensuring that we
45 do a good job on meeting the escapement and providing for
46 people to make subsistence and if there are fish, enough
47 fish to provide for a limited commercial fishery at this
48 time, you know, the State is trying to be able to provide
49 that opportunity also.

50

00145

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Virgil.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Mr. Holder,
4 I'd like to ask you a couple of questions.

5

6 The first one is, it's not in writing
7 here anywhere, but it's what the managers have said, and
8 that is that they will open the king salmon commercial
9 season at the mid-point of the run, was that discussed in
10 the deliberations?

11

12 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
13 Umphenour, no, that was not discussed. I believe that
14 was stated in the Staff comments for opening the chinook
15 season near the mid-point of the run this year if that
16 opportunity appears to be available.

17

18 MR. UMPHENOUR: Now, my next questions
19 is, do you know how the State manager is going to
20 determine the mid-point of the run, whether it's by run
21 timing or what they're anticipating is going to come up
22 the river and by the halfway point in the sonar count?

23

24 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
25 Umphenour, I believe the State managers are here and I
26 would, you know, defer to their response to that
27 question.

28

29 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. My name is Fred
30 Bue for the record. I'm the Yukon River fall season area
31 manager. The summer season is out of my normal thing,
32 but, yes, that's our basic strategy that we've worked
33 with, the Fish and Wildlife Service managers to go
34 forward with a conservative manager schedule like Mr.
35 Umphenour had said, to wait to close to the mid-point in
36 the run, approximately where it is before we would
37 consider commercial fishing.

38

39 Primarily with the chinook season, what
40 we manage is initially based on the test net, is our
41 primary indicator that's the index that we've used for
42 several years and primarily it is an index and we base
43 our timing off of that. We'll use other, the Pilot
44 Station sonar to give us an idea of tracking on timing,
45 but that's not the main tool that we're using. And so
46 the test net is our -- the longstanding project that we
47 use to judge the initial run of the -- the chinook run.

48

49 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Bue. So
50 basically what their plan is is to use the test fishery

00146

1 and then try to determine whether the run is early,
2 average or late and then just try to make a guess at when
3 the midpoint of the run is and that's when the commercial
4 fishery would prosecuted; is that what they're looking
5 at?

6
7 MR. BUE: Yes, Mr. Umphenour. That's
8 essentially it. They're using a lot of other indicators.
9 They're talking, calling communities up and down in that
10 area, the fishermen in Alakanuk, Hooper Bay and fishermen
11 further up and it's a really intensive phone thing, but
12 -- and so they're talking to commercial fishermen,
13 subsistence fishermen and the various test nets, the
14 Pilot Station sonar and they're comparing a lot of those
15 indicators to see if they're falling in line.

16
17 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Did the
18 Board, during deliberations, or did the Department,
19 anyone bring up the fact that if they conduct the
20 commercial fishery in this manner year after year where
21 they open the commercial fishery at the mid-point which
22 means basically that all king salmon are subject to large
23 mesh gear, period, that none are going to get up the
24 river that are not subject -- or out of District 1 or 2
25 that are not subject to exploitation by large mesh gear
26 that they will be targeting the same discreet stocks year
27 after year after year after year, mainly the Tanana River
28 stocks?

29
30 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
31 Umphenour, that specific discussion did not occur. But I
32 did want to back up and kind of elaborate somewhat on Mr.
33 Bue's explanation of your previous question, in that, it
34 is a guess, in looking at where the mid-point of the run
35 is, but based on historical information, the test net,
36 the sonar, and also the subsistence reports. And what I
37 wanted to elaborate on is that last year when we were
38 looking at near the mid-point of the run, the reports
39 that I was receiving from the Lower Yukon fishermen
40 where the commercial fishery was going to be prosecuted
41 is that there were a good proportion of people that were
42 reporting being at 50 percent or greater of their
43 subsistence harvest, good proportion of them being at 75
44 percent and some of them having been completed.

45
46 So what I wanted to relay to you is that
47 when we're trying to determine whether commercial fishing
48 can be prosecuted, that goes in hand in hand with where
49 people are at meeting their subsistence needs. And
50 previously, the commercial fishery has been prosecuted

00147

1 near the quarter-point, that's where it has historically
2 been started. We have shoved that toward the mid-point
3 in large part to try to get to where the majority of fish
4 are available. Yes, we are aware that there are discreet
5 stocks in all segments of the run but the idea being that
6 fishing on that mid-point, that there's probably more
7 stocks available that are being fished on that hopefully
8 we're not doing, overall, a damage to any particular
9 segment that's returning.

10

11 I share your concern in trying to
12 identify discreet stocks and I'm pushing hard with our
13 genetics staff to try to get some in-season information
14 available. It's going to be several years down the road
15 but I'm hopeful that that may be an additional tool that
16 we, as in-season managers, can use to try to make
17 decisions about, you know, what fish are being fished on.

18

19 Thank you.

20

21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We have to get back
22 to Virgil's point there is that when you allow those down
23 river people, you know, I don't like to pit down river
24 against up river, but when you allow them to subsistence
25 fish, they use big size gillnets and they fish hard. And
26 I talked to a couple of them and they admitted to me when
27 I was out there and they fish hard and then they use
28 their political avenue, AVCP and others to force you guys
29 to allow them to have a commercial fishery. And that's
30 what really -- and you allow them to have a commercial
31 fishery and then when you say the stocks are limited and
32 you cut us off and we can't really get nothing in our
33 freezers as to king salmon wise and then we wait for fall
34 chum and then you -- we get totally cut off and then you
35 say you'll get a little coho but when you allow us to
36 coho fish there's ice in the river.

37

38 There's got to be a better way that you
39 guys could have management where we, the up river people,
40 especially in the Yukon Flats can have fish in their
41 freezer all winter, not just for part of the year, I mean
42 all winter.

43

44 And if you guys saying you're managing
45 conservatively, then I want to see you manage that
46 subsistence fishing conservatively at the mouth because
47 it seems like every time those fish get up river, we're
48 the ones that are being managed conservatively instead of
49 the mouth people.

50

00148

1 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Everyone
2 along the river definitely has a specific interest in the
3 fish that are there. And when the decision to go
4 commercial fishing last year was made, I asked the State
5 manager several questions, and we were at -- you know,
6 looking at near the mid-point of the run. I said, you
7 know, does it look like with what we have in hand at this
8 point enough fish to make our escapement goals and the
9 answer was yes. I asked does it look like we're going to
10 have enough fish for the subsistence throughout the
11 river, you know, from the mouth clear up into Canada and
12 the answer was yes. And does it look like we're going to
13 have enough fish on the Alaska side here for being able
14 to provide for commercial and also recognizing that we
15 have an obligation with the new treaty for a catch
16 proportion into Canada and the answer was yes.

17
18 And I'll, you know, I'm in part making
19 that decision. I'm looking at those same issues and I'll
20 grant you that it was -- we may have cut it too close
21 last year and we need to perhaps be somewhat more
22 conservative, but it's -- you know, the opportunity --
23 once the fish are by you can't go back and we need -- I
24 mean there's -- each agency has different mandates that
25 we're working under and trying to, what, divide the fish
26 and ensure that there's fish going, saying
27 proportionately to all these different locations, I'm
28 trying to do the best I can, the State managers are
29 trying to do the best they can and trying to ensure that
30 people have opportunity throughout the river. It's a big
31 river, it's very complicated and there's a lot of issues
32 and fish going to these different locations.

33
34 And I appreciate your concern and I will
35 be, you know, I mean we are trying to be conservative in
36 our management strategy throughout the river to try to
37 address all these different issues.

38
39 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman, back to your
40 concern for subsistence fishing in the lower river. Mr.
41 Umphenour's well aware of the efforts the Board of Fish
42 has taken to be conservative on the front end of the run
43 in the lower river. In the past, prior to 2001, it was
44 open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and what the Board
45 of Fish -- struggled with that for several years and in
46 2001 they came up with a plan, the windowed fishing
47 schedule. That was to be implemented early in the run
48 before there was a good assessment of the run strength,
49 when there was very little information, we didn't know
50 what was going on.

00149

1 As you're aware, subsistence fishing
2 always wants to get those first fish for household use,
3 those are the best ones and they're the best ones all the
4 way up the river, no matter where you're at, king salmon
5 at the early front of the run, you want that for your
6 personal use. And that was a concern Mr. Umphenour
7 explained, is that always hitting one portion of the run
8 is a problem.

9
10 So the Board of Fish went through a very
11 arduous process, it wasn't popular with a lot of
12 fishermen, and people understood that it was necessary.
13 So from that seven days a week, 24 hours a day, they
14 necked it down to two 36-hour periods a week in the lower
15 river, which is a conservative -- considerable step. The
16 Board of Fish will take it up again this fall and that's
17 our opportunity to refine it or to change things. And I
18 hope that this RAC and others will -- we've gone to a lot
19 of AC meetings, and RAC meetings, this is the time to put
20 in proposals to change that or fine-tune that intent.
21 But I think the Board of Fish laid the ground work to do
22 something conservative and that's everybody's job now is
23 to figure out a way to further, whatever you feel fit for
24 managing the fish, you need to lay that out.

25
26 Mr. Chairman.

27
28 MR. UMPHENOUR: When the Board was in
29 deliberations, did they discuss a trade-off between the
30 concerns of enforcement and the biological concerns as
31 far as if they would have done what the Board passed in
32 2001, which I chaired the committee of the Board that did
33 that, was just two 36-hour periods a week, period. If
34 they're going to have commercial fishing it has to be
35 done during those two 36-hour periods, and then the big
36 objection and the Department finding the loophole to
37 ignore that once they have a commercial fishery and to
38 basically just have continuous fishing except for 18
39 hours and 12 hours after a commercial period, did they
40 discuss that trade-off? What is most important the
41 subsistence users up river having reasonable opportunity,
42 meeting escapement on the spawning grounds Canada and
43 everywhere else like they didn't do this last year in
44 Canada or worrying about a couple of people mixing their
45 subsistence fish in with their commercial cousins or
46 buddies catch? Did they have that discussion even?

47
48 MR. HOLDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr.
49 Umphenour, part of that discussion occurred in the
50 committee process. In the deliberations themselves, the

00150

1 reference to the difficulty with enforcement in having
2 concurrent subsistence and commercial periods was stated
3 in the Staff reports but was not deliberated upon by the
4 Board members themselves.

5

6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. That's all I
7 have for the Staff. We do need to address this issue,
8 though, because as I stated in my opening comments
9 yesterday, I think this is the most important issue
10 facing this group is some how making sure that we get our
11 escapement on the spawning grounds, and not just
12 escapement but quality escapement and also so that we
13 have reasonable, equal -- equal reasonable opportunity to
14 harvest subsistence fish up river.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, that's what I
19 told you two in Kotlik at that meeting when I was sitting
20 with John Hanson and I said we get treated unfairly up
21 river compared to down river. Because they get to
22 subsistence fish hard, they get to commercial fish and
23 plus what he just alluded to, is that we need more
24 opportunity than -- conservative, then go down there and
25 you really conservatively manage the fishery for us and
26 we don't get to -- we don't meet our needs up here.
27 Maybe they do in the other two RAC regions, but you don't
28 -- you guys don't really hear the complaints I hear. So
29 I try to mirror what they're telling me. And they don't
30 like to report nothing anymore, they don't even like to
31 tell you guys anything anymore, and when you say that we
32 are meeting our needs up river, we are not. I tell you
33 that right now.

34

35 I'd like to see you guys manage that
36 fishery to give us up river people more opportunity. And
37 if there's a way that we could do it in a proposal then
38 we'll figure it out.

39

40 Thank you.

41

42 MR. TITUS: I just got a comment.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Philip.

45

46 MR. TITUS: You should manage the fish
47 like your lives depend on it because ours do.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, the next item on
50 our agenda would be the call for Alaska Board of

00151

1 Fisheries proposals or fisheries proposals on Federal
2 regulation side. Maybe it would be a nice time to bring
3 up the YRDFA proposal and bring it up for discussion, and
4 after that the Council can develop their own proposals
5 either on the Federal or the State side.

6

7 Jerry, do we have the proposal for the
8 YRDFA? We have copies of the YRDFA proposal that they
9 developed in Kotlik in their February meeting.

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do we have proposals
12 to work on?

13

14 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I know you had
15 discussed about developing a proposal to submit either
16 the State or the Federal side on fisheries proposals, so
17 that would probably deal with the Yukon River drainages.
18 This is a Federal Subsistence Fisheries proposal that
19 Jerry just handed out by the Yukon River Drainage
20 Fisheries Association.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: First off before I
23 say anything, I'd like to know what the YK RAC did on
24 this?

25

26 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I believe Mr.
27 Rivard was at the meeting and he can update you on that.

28

29 MR. RIVARD: Good morning. My name is
30 Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management.
31 They discussed this, they had it put before them but they
32 didn't take any action because they know if it's
33 submitted as a proposal to the Office of Subsistence
34 Management that their Council as well as your Council
35 will get a chance to look at this and vote on it and make
36 a recommendation in the fall.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What's your opinion
39 if it goes to the State, what you guys will do about
40 that, if we like submit this through a State -- see the
41 reason we drafted this language up was to get support
42 from the Eastern, Western and the YK as a united front on
43 the Yukon, that's why I asked that question, what did
44 they -- if they took no action and what we planned in
45 Kotlik at that YRDFA meeting, we planned to do this like
46 a riverwide situation where we wouldn't have to be
47 bumping heads all the time, with different -- with
48 different deals.

49

50 I went far ahead to go from our

00152

1 standpoint from last fall, for change -- we went a little
2 bit with our recommendation, but I wouldn't like to do
3 anything on this right now. I'd like to support it but
4 if there's no support from -- if there's no action from
5 the YK and nothing from the Western Interior, we're
6 beating a dead horse here.

7

8 MR. TITUS: There ain't very much we can
9 do on this unless it's supported, about the only thing we
10 can do for this proposal because it ain't even a proposal
11 until it's submitted.

12

13 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Jerry just
14 reminded me that they did -- when the Council discussed
15 it at the YK, they were generally in favor of this but
16 they just didn't -- they had the option and I even told
17 them they had the option of passing some resolution if
18 they so chose at their meeting a couple weeks ago, but
19 because they know they're going to be able to see this in
20 front of them as a formal proposal with an analysis in
21 front of them in the fall they chose not to do any action
22 at their meeting in Chevak a couple weeks ago.

23

24 So I would say in general that they were
25 in favor to this but they just didn't take any formal
26 action.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What do you guys want
29 to do.

30

31 MR. TITUS: I think we should just let it
32 sit on the table until it comes back as a proposal then
33 we can deal with it, maybe we'll have more information
34 then.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Well, let me ask a
37 question. Now, first I'll make this statement, what we
38 did in our recommendation, we had or their eggs taken out
39 originally, what went to the Board, the Federal
40 Subsistence Board. But what would be the ramifications,
41 I'm asking the Staff, of this last part they've scratched
42 out where it says, or to any other business as defined
43 under Alaska Statute and then gives that number? What
44 would be the effect of that? Is that the statute that
45 addresses DEC requirements and safety of food for the
46 public requirements or what is that?

47

48 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Umphenour,
49 that is something that I'm not going to try to attempt to
50 answer. That would be the things that would be answered

00153

1 in a proposal analysis. And that would let you -- just
2 as you saw yesterday with the wildlife analysis. And
3 that would give Staff time to look at these things and
4 analyze it and answer those type of questions but I don't
5 want to do it off the cuff.

6

7 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Then I would
8 be in favor of just waiting and seeing the Staff analysis
9 of it so we know what it means because otherwise we
10 really don't know what it means.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, personally I
13 wouldn't want to move on anything that -- see, every time
14 we make a recommendation and it comes back all chewed up
15 and they put something like that in there, I'd like to
16 see more -- and if it's going to be affecting something
17 -- something as important as customary trade I'd like to
18 see more things on the table before we make a decision.
19 Because every time I look at this and look at that
20 there's always something new that pops up.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move to take no action
23 on this proposal.

24

25 MS. WAGGONER: Second.

26

27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: There's a move to
28 take no action. Discussion.

29

30 MS. WAGGONER: Question.

31

32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Question has been
33 called. All those in favor to take no action on this
34 proposal by YRDFA signify by saying aye.

35

36 IN UNISON: Aye.

37

38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed,
39 same sign.

40

41 (No opposing votes)

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion carried.

44

45 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I think now is the
46 time if the Council has any particular proposals they
47 would like to submit either to the State and I believe
48 their proposal cycle -- submission for proposals ends
49 April 10th and the State regulation side ends on March
50 28th. It's either I or Staff from our office can help

00154

1 develop proposals to submit either to the State or to our
2 OSM office.

3

4 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I sent out an e-mail
7 to some of you who had e-mail, like a couple -- like
8 about two weeks and the only one that answered was Andy,
9 and if you guys have any ideas for fisheries proposals
10 for the Alaska Board of Fisheries, just let us know now.

11

12 MR. UMPHENOUR: If we go back to what we
13 were talking about a few minutes ago. What we have to --
14 the first thing we have to do is identify what our
15 problem is and then we have to identify how we can solve
16 it. And the problem is simple. The problem is that in
17 order to have quality escapement on the spawning grounds
18 there has to be unmolested fish get past the fishermen.

19

20 So you have to figure out how to
21 accomplish it. There's two ways to accomplish it and
22 what the Board did, too, a little over two years ago, was
23 that there was attempt to do that, which got circumvented
24 by the department. And that is to have a fishing
25 schedule that allows fish to pass through the fishery,
26 whether it's -- it doesn't make a difference, when a fish
27 is dead it's dead. It doesn't make any difference
28 whether it was caught by a commercial fisherman or a
29 subsistence fisherman or a sportfisherman, it's dead and
30 it's not going to get to the spawning grounds. So what
31 we need is unmolested fish on the spawning grounds to
32 maintain the genetic integrity.

33

34 And just a little bit of history here, I
35 have some documents that if he wanted to take a break we
36 could have them copied so all the Board members could
37 have them, but I have just one page of a report done by
38 the State of Alaska on what the effects are of using
39 large mesh gillnets and subjecting all the fish to
40 harvest by large mesh gillnets and what the report
41 basically states is that if you use an eight inch or
42 larger mesh gillnet, that 98 percent of the females are
43 susceptible to harvest but only 17 percent of the males.
44 And then the same report goes on to say that in their
45 conclusions, what ends up happening is you put a whole
46 bunch of what the call precious one and two ocean males
47 on the spawning grounds and very few females and the
48 females that do get there are what they call jills,
49 little bitty dinky females and so what ends up happening
50 is they pass on their genes to their offspring that

00155

1 they're going to be one and two ocean fish. That means
2 instead of spending four or five years in the ocean and
3 coming back as a large mature king salmon, they come back
4 as a runt. They're going to weigh anywhere from three to
5 eight to 10 pounds, that's what they're going to way.

6
7 And there's a dual policy in the State of
8 Alaska as far as State management goes. In Southeast
9 Alaska, they do not count a king salmon as a spawning
10 king salmon for escapement unless it's over 28 inches
11 long. That's from the middle of its eyeball to the fork
12 of its tail, which is about a 10 or 11 pound king salmon.

13
14 On the Yukon River, they count all these
15 damn jacks, these little dinky fish. And I wish a couple
16 of the fishermen were here, but they're not in here, from
17 Nenana right now. But I have some of their catches last
18 year that I weighed every individual king salmon they
19 caught in the commercial fishery on the 14th of July, and
20 that's Ed Lord, Jr., and -- is one of the fishermen who's
21 not in here but the other one, the one that runs the test
22 wheel was here yesterday for a little while, and that's
23 Paul Klienshmidt. And what those figures show is that of
24 Ed Lord's king salmon he caught in the commercial
25 fishery, only 10 percent of them were females, only 10
26 percent. And he caught more king salmon that were
27 smaller than a chum salmon than that were larger than a
28 chum salmon. And the same thing with Paul Klienshmidt,
29 the guy that runs the test wheel, only he had 14 percent
30 females in his harvest.

31
32 But regardless, that's the problem. If
33 we don't get the king salmon on the spawning grounds and
34 have a good cross section of the entire population, then
35 we're going to lose what they call the genetic diversity.
36 I like to call it the genetic integrity.

37
38 I have one other little short thing to
39 state about this, just as general information. That is I
40 got to tour the Bonneville Dam project down on the
41 Columbia River exactly a year ago, myself and another
42 Board of Fish member and the executive director went over
43 there when we were at another meeting down at Portland.
44 And we accidentally ran into the guy that's in charge of
45 the project to keep the Snake River, chinook or king
46 salmon that are on the endangered species list from
47 becoming extinct, so he took us on a tour of what they've
48 done to keep that from happening, and so we got to
49 talking about selectivity of mesh, of gillnets, and the
50 fact that they still use large mesh gillnets in the mouth

00156

1 of the Columbia River. Of course almost all the fish
2 they're catching now are hatchery produced because
3 they've just about wiped out all the wild fish genetics.
4 But the average king salmon on the Columbia River now
5 that's mature is only 12 pounds. That's all it is, 12
6 pounds. Because those genes of all those fish that would
7 stay out in the ocean to become full-size king salmon are
8 gone. They killed them all. They're not left. There's
9 none left. They're gone.

10

11 And I'll just give one more little quick
12 example of this and that is the Nushagak River, which
13 runs into Bristol Bay at Dillingham -- Dillingham sits
14 near the mouth of the Nushagak River. There's a guy by
15 the name of McGill, he died two years ago. He was in the
16 Marine Corps in World War II, he moved to Dillingham
17 right after World War II in 1946. Joe McGill is his name.
18 He served in the Alaska Legislature, I think, for six
19 terms back in the '50 and '60s. Very respected man in
20 the Bristol Bay area, but like I said he passed away two
21 years ago. But when I was at a Bristol Bay Board of Fish
22 meeting, I was talking to him and he came to me and he
23 says, you know, we have to do something about the king
24 salmon. At the end of World War II, the average king
25 salmon caught in the commercial fishery for the Nushagak
26 River was a 30 pound fish, now it's less than 18 pounds.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Virgil.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: And so that is the
31 problem. We're going to be in that same situation and so
32 we have to address it through a proposal to the Board of
33 Fisheries. And basically the proposal is already there.
34 All we have to do is make damn sure that it gets
35 addressed. And that is to establish a real windows
36 schedule for the Lower Yukon -- we have one also for the
37 Upper Yukon, but establish one for the Lower Yukon that's
38 going to be effective and that's going to allow a real
39 pass-through of fish up river. Because it also applies
40 on our chum salmon stocks as well, all salmon stocks, the
41 same thing applies to.

42

43 Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I seen that
46 proposal, Virgil. And I was kind of confused there for a
47 little while. What you alluded to earlier is that you
48 kind of wanted them to stick to the two 36-hour periods
49 whether it be commercial or subsistence, right?

50

00157

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. Because
2 -- let me just say one little quick thing. I talked to a
3 number of the Staff, I even talked to Captain Cain, that
4 guys that's from the Troopers for the Board, although
5 he's now retired but he's still an advisory to the Board
6 of Fisheries. And so there's a question there. And what
7 the question is, is what's more important, because you
8 have two options.

9
10 Allowing a few people that are going to
11 be illegal no matter what you do to sell or subsistence
12 fish, you know, give them to one of their buddies that's
13 a commercial fisherman that's going to sell them, or to
14 get quality escapement on the spawning grounds and
15 reasonable opportunity for the people up river, because
16 you can't have both. And there's only one way to do it
17 and that's just to have them fish concurrently.

18
19 Because in the Upper Yukon the fishery is
20 concurrently. The subsistence fishery and the commercial
21 fishery runs at the same time. So basically what the
22 Department said to me when they're worried about this
23 happening is, well, the honest people that live up river,
24 they can fish subsistence and commercial at the same
25 time, we're not going to worry about them getting their
26 buddies to sell their subsistence fish into the
27 commercial fishery, but the Lower Yukon guys are a bunch
28 of damn crooks and we can't trust them so they can't fish
29 that way so you honest people have to suffer because
30 there's a bunch of damn crooks in the Lower River. And
31 that's basically the issue.

32
33 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, Virg, I
34 wouldn't want to split the up river and the down river
35 people, you know, it took too long for us to start
36 working together. I've been on this Board for six years
37 and I've been involved in the TRM Advisory Committee for
38 I don't know how long. You know, that comment that you
39 just made could split that working relationship, you
40 know, and I don't like to say this to my Council members,
41 but I'd like to say this now to all of us, I'd like to
42 keep those comments to ourselves that I just heard. I
43 don't want them to be public because I don't want to
44 break that working relationship that YRDFA put together.

45
46 But I would like to see a proposal that
47 comes out that has that straightforward and doesn't beat
48 around the bush, and I'd like to see them stick to their
49 two 36-hour periods as establishing the window, whether
50 it be commercial or subsistence. And that's what I'd

00158

1 like to see. But I don't like to hear no more comments,
2 what I just heard, where it will diffuse the Lower and
3 Upper Yukon working relationship. Man we worked too hard
4 to get that thing going.

5
6 I just want to mention that right now.

7
8 MR. UMPHENOUR: When I said that, that is
9 what the Staff is saying to me, and that is what some of
10 them have physically said to me. They're not going to
11 say it in public but they've told me that. And as far as
12 YRDFA goes, I was one of the co-founders and the first
13 Chairman of the Board for YRDFA back in 1990, I'm one of
14 the guys that organized it. So I don't want to see them
15 come apart either.

16
17 Now, this comes to another issue, and
18 that is that one of the reasons -- or the reason why the
19 Department feels compelled to let them commercial fish in
20 the Lower Yukon so early. The reason for it is because
21 of the allocation scheme. The allocation scheme for king
22 salmon is that the Lower Yukon, commercially, gets 89
23 percent of them. The Upper Yukon gets less than 11
24 percent in the commercial fishery. So if the manager is
25 going to meet his goals as far as allocation goes on king
26 salmon, then as soon as he figures out, or he thinks he's
27 figured out that there is going to be a harvestable
28 surplus above subsistence needs and escapement needs,
29 then he's going to have to make sure that if he has a
30 commercial fishery or they feel bound to do this, then
31 he's going to have to let those guys get their 89 percent
32 of the king salmon.

33
34 There's only one way to solve that, lower
35 their allocation. And so I've got all this historical
36 data with me. Every damn bit of it is in my briefcase
37 that there is for Yukon River on harvest. And so I know
38 what the harvest has been historically. The records go
39 back to 1912. And so what we need to do is go back to
40 what the historical harvest was pre-statehood, right
41 after statehood took place -- prior to statehood, the
42 harvest -- the commercial harvest for the Yukon River was
43 only 65,000 king salmon a year for a majority of the
44 time. There was a couple of times under Federal
45 management where it was more, but after Hudson fight in
46 Washington, D.C., in 1920 they did away with the
47 commercial fish for export, that means they were canned
48 and shipping them out of state, and then they finally let
49 them go back to commercial fishing again in about 1931 or
50 '32, somewhere in there, they let them have up to 100,000

00159

1 fish for only one year because after they let the
2 commercial fishery harvest all these fish in the Lower
3 River, and they probably underreported, then they had a
4 hell of a time up river getting their subsistence needs
5 met, and it was part of -- part of the reason was because
6 of airplanes and they didn't need quite so many fish for
7 dog food, because the airplanes started carrying mail in
8 1927.

9

10 So anyway, until statehood -- well,
11 actually until 1961 the allocation -- or the quota was
12 65,000 king salmon a year, commercially for export. Then
13 what they did is they reduced the fishing schedule to
14 four days a week and they just went by a fishing
15 schedule, and that was in 1961. That was the first year
16 that was in effect. Well, add floating processors,
17 canneries move into the mouth of the Lower Yukon they
18 caught around 115,000 king salmon. Well, that year,
19 guess what happened, they closed subsistence right here
20 in Nenana on the Tanana River because they caught too
21 damn many fish in 1961. That was the first big instance
22 of oops management by the State and it's been going on
23 practically every year since.

24

25 And so the only way to address that is to
26 go back to what was a sustainable harvest, proven by
27 history, and that's no more than 65,000 king salmon
28 commercially a year in the Yukon River.

29

30 And so I think we should submit a
31 proposal for that. And I have all the data here and if
32 we want to take about a 30 minute break, the Staff can
33 make copies of it and everyone can have the data in front
34 of them and see what I'm talking about.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I kind of believe
37 you. Because I kind of believe you there on that
38 historical 65,000 because I've talked to a lot of people
39 and a couple of people that passed away recently and I
40 always brought this fact up that every since the state
41 became a state they have mismanaged the fish, the Yukon
42 River fishery big time, and this just proves it. And if
43 we want to put a proposal where we could go back to the
44 65,000 commercial as a historical number for the State, I
45 would support that.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd like to ask a
48 question of whoever can answer the question, that's the
49 appropriate person. Now, in order to write up the type
50 of proposals we need to do, we can't do it in one day,

00160

1 it's going to be hard to do. I mean we can but we're not
2 going to do as good a job as we would if we get a little
3 input. We have until the 10th of April to submit
4 proposals to the Board of Fisheries. So my question is
5 this, do we give the intent of what we want to the Staff
6 and they write the proposal? Do we sit down and write it
7 ourselves right now as kind of a committee or can we have
8 the Staff do this thing and then either e-mail or fax or
9 whatever, what we do because we have until the 10th of
10 April to each other, all of us so that we can all comment
11 on it and maybe have a teleconference meeting to decide
12 what our final proposal is?

13

14 What's -- what can we do, that's my
15 question, to the appropriate person to answer the
16 question.

17

18 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Donald.

21

22 MR. MIKE: It's up to the Council. The
23 Council can set up a committee to develop these proposals
24 and we have Staff in our office to help you write them up
25 and submit them to the Board of Fish or to the Federal
26 Subsistence Board. It's up to the Council, if they want
27 to form a committee and if the proposal that was just
28 being discussed is going to be lengthy proposal to
29 develop then I'd recommend you set up a committee to
30 develop that particular proposal.

31

32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd leave that call
33 up to you Virgil. If you want to sit on this committee
34 with the Staff it'd be up to you.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'd be happy to work with
37 the committee to address what we think would be -- to
38 analyze the history of the fishery, and then come up with
39 what we think a sustainable harvest would be, a
40 responsible sustainable harvest of salmon in the Yukon
41 River because we have to address chum salmon as well,
42 both summer and fall, in a proposal such as this.

43

44 But I've talked to former managers that
45 are now retired from the Department and they've told me
46 it just aggravates the hell of them that they have the
47 allocation the way they have it because it makes it so
48 that the Lower River manager absolutely has to operate in
49 an irresponsible manner by allowing fishing to take place
50 in the commercial fishery, really when it shouldn't.

00161

1 MS. WAGGONER: This is basically just a
2 salmon management issue and I know at some point, and I'm
3 not going to point out names, but I think they're in the
4 audience, somebody told me that they were going to revise
5 the Yukon River Salmon Management Plan and that the
6 Coordinating Fisheries Committee members from the three
7 RACs would be on that to work on that. And what Virgil's
8 talking about is basically -- and Gerald is saying that
9 we need to revise the Salmon Management Plan on the Yukon
10 River. And I don't know if anybody's around that can
11 comment on that.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 MS. WAGGONER: Okay.

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virgil, as being a
18 Chairman, I'm going to appoint you as a member and maybe
19 Donald and whoever the Staff people from the Federal or
20 State that will work with you. I don't want to get too
21 carried away on this proposal here and I don't want to go
22 way overboard on our allowed time but -- if you have
23 something to say, Don, I'd like to hear it.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don
26 Rivard. I think you've kind of done this already but it
27 would probably be best, while you're in your public
28 meeting here to articulate the intent of your proposal as
29 well as you can right now and then direct Staff to
30 develop it. Because it's got to be done pretty much in
31 the open public forum right now. Because if it were
32 developed all in a committee or a teleconference later it
33 wouldn't necessarily be official coming from you. So
34 this is the time now to really articulate that intent of
35 your proposal.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

38

39 MR. RIVARD: Thank you.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Then if we got to
42 articulate it then I would like to see some kind of
43 proposal be developed with Virgil in there, that it will
44 put back the historical 65,000 before statehood and that
45 the allocation be changed so it will give more people a
46 more equal opportunity up river than down river. If we
47 could have a little more allocation percentage for up
48 river compared to the down river, I'd like to see that.

49

50 MR. UMPHENOUR: If I take about five

00162

1 minutes, I think I can put forward what I think we should
2 do and then the rest of the Council members can discuss
3 it to see if that is the intent that they're happy with.
4 That's what I'd like to do and it will only take me about
5 five minutes, I think.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, we'll take a 15
8 minute break then.

9
10 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay.

11
12 (Off record)

13
14 (On record)

15
16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: First, before we go
17 on, I'd like to recognize Mitch Demientieff. He's got a
18 little explanation coming up here.

19
20 MR. DEMIENTIEFF: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. I
21 think I just want to explain the reasons why I haven't
22 been here that much. And the reason is that, you know, I
23 want to protect the integrity of the process. And I
24 thought if I came here and got over involved, because we,
25 at the Board level, do appreciate all of the hard work
26 that you folks put in to the process.

27
28 At the Board level, we count on your
29 advice and I think probably your Chairman has seen it and
30 other chairmans certainly have seen it. So in order to
31 protect the integrity of your process and that's really
32 the reason why I haven't, you know, although I've come by
33 and said hi and those kind of things. But I just wanted
34 everybody to understand that it's not -- we're certainly
35 so very proud that you're able to come here with your
36 meeting and use our good facilities, but, you know, your
37 work that you're doing, it's up to you and then when it
38 comes to our level we're going to be looking for that.

39
40 So make sure that everybody understands
41 that we do appreciate all the hard work that you're
42 putting in. And even just coming in right now, you know,
43 people are saying, well, you know, Mitch, you got to
44 participate, but, you know, I don't want that. That's
45 not what I want. Because when your recommendations come
46 in, I know they're going to be recommendations that we
47 can count on.

48
49 So anyway, I just wanted to explain that.
50 But I just wanted to make sure that everybody understood

00163

1 that I'm not ignoring you, you know, that we're waiting
2 for the results but I do want to protect the integrity of
3 the process.

4

5 But anyway, I got a dental appointment
6 this afternoon in Fairbanks, but I wanted to make sure I
7 at least had a few moments to spend with you to let you
8 know exactly what I'm thinking.

9

10 So thank you very much.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You got to have a
13 better place than the Rough Woods Inn next time, Mitch.

14

15 (Laughter)

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, Virg, what did
18 you come up with?

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, what I've come up
21 with is the first thing is I want to know if any Staff
22 has all these things? What I'm holding up is Alaska
23 Fisheries and Fur Industries in 1918, Department of
24 Commerce Bureau of Fisheries; does anyone have these, all
25 of them, that start in 1912 that I have? Any Staff, so
26 they can use these to help write a proposal, so they know
27 what I'm talking about?

28

29 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Umphenour,
30 we would appreciate having a copy of any information that
31 you can provide our Staff when they go through their
32 analysis. But the proposal, that I think you're going to
33 be making here on the commercial side of it will go to
34 the Board of Fisheries, but we would still like to have
35 copies of that information, if we can get a copy from
36 you.

37

38 You can send that to Donald Mike, or he
39 can get a copy before he leaves the Fairbanks area.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I think what
42 we need to do is the first proposal we need to have is
43 one that addresses windows. And I think this proposal
44 needs to go to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
45 State Board of Fisheries, both. And the reason why I say
46 that is because in the Lower Yukon, it's almost all
47 exclusively Federal waters and so it comes under the
48 jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board or the
49 Office of Subsistence Management. It's practically all
50 in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

00164

1 When I thought about this a little over
2 two years ago or when we were working on this, the Board
3 of Fisheries was, one of the things we discussed -- I
4 discussed this with a lot of the public members of the
5 committee and the Staff, is that, the goal was reasonable
6 equal opportunity for all users. And so what is a
7 reasonable opportunity for someone at Fort Yukon, the
8 schedule that the Board established and is still there is
9 seven days a week, subsistence fishing. In order to have
10 equal reasonable opportunity in the Lower Yukon in
11 District Y1, for instance, that may only be to catch
12 whatever their needs are going to be, maybe six hours a
13 week. And so what we did was we settled for a compromise
14 of two 36-hour periods.

15
16 But what I would like to do with our
17 proposal is I would say for the Lower Yukon, for a
18 subsistence fishing schedule two 18-hour periods per week
19 because I feel that is way more than adequate and that
20 will give us a much larger window to pass unmolested fish
21 up the river. And for the Upper Yukon, what's in
22 regulation I think is adequate, and what that is is it's
23 two 48-hour periods per week in District 4 and District
24 5, which extends -- that's 5A and B, which extends
25 basically from Anvik to the bridge on the Yukon River.
26 And then District 5D, which is the rest of the river,
27 from basically Stevens Village to the border is seven
28 days a week. And then District 6, which is the Tanana
29 River drainage, it's two 42-hour periods per week.

30
31 So what that would be is the Lower River
32 is the only one we would address as far as making any
33 change, and that would be changing it from two 36-hour
34 periods per week to two 18-hour periods of fishing, be it
35 commercial or subsistence. And if they have a commercial
36 fishery then it has to take place during that 18-hour
37 time period that they would have twice a week.

38
39 So that would be our first proposal and
40 that would go before the State Board of Fisheries and the
41 Federal Subsistence Board, both.

42
43 The second proposal that I would propose
44 would be a proposal to reduce the guideline harvest level
45 for the commercial fishery in the Lower Yukon from 60,000
46 to 120,000 king salmon to from zero to 50,000 king
47 salmon. And the Upper Yukon would be zero to 15,000 king
48 salmon.

49
50 On chum salmon, I don't have the

00165

1 regulation book in front of me, but we need an
2 appropriate reduction in the guideline harvest on chum
3 salmon as well. We have summer chums and then fall
4 chums. I think on fall chums the Lower Yukon, they're
5 low end of the guideline harvest is 60,000 fish and I
6 believe their upper end is 320,000. Maybe Mr. Bue has
7 this information, I don't know, but I believe that's what
8 it is. But we need the low end to be zero, so that they
9 can -- so that the commercial fishermen will not be under
10 some kind of a missperception that they're supposed to be
11 guaranteed the low end of the guideline harvest, which I
12 know that on fall chums, I'm sure it's 60,000 for the
13 Lower Yukon, is the low end. But on the upper river,
14 like in District 6, I know it goes from zero to 22,000 or
15 maybe it goes from 2,000-something to 22,000 for District
16 6.

17
18 But anyway, that's what we need to do and
19 we need to do it in an appropriate manner and the only
20 way we can do that is to sit down with the reg book to
21 see what's actually in the allocation on those others. I
22 know exactly what I want on king salmon, though.

23
24 And the justification. There's two
25 justifications for this. The first justification is is
26 that the majority of the Lower Yukon belong to CDQ
27 groups, and the allocation criteria for the Board of
28 Fisheries, one of the criteria is other alternative
29 fisheries available to the commercial fisherman. And so
30 that's one of the things that the Board, when they make
31 an allocation decision is supposed to consider, is, do
32 these people have another fisheries resource that they
33 can go make money off of. The Lower Yukon, believe it or
34 not, owns a great big giant damn factory trawler and
35 their young people can go to college if they want and
36 their CDQ group will pay for it. You can look up the
37 Department of Commerce web site and you will find out
38 that in Emmonak last year they made \$88,000 off of Bingo
39 in their village. So they have money to play Bingo, make
40 lots of money and send all their kids to college, they
41 can go to work on a factory trawler if they want. They
42 fish not only -- they get an allocation from the North
43 Pacific Fisheries Management Council of every fish that's
44 fished by the trawl fish. They also get an allocation of
45 all the crab fisheries in the Bering Sea, Aleutian
46 Islands, they get an allocation of those as well. And so
47 when you look at the allocation criteria that the State
48 has for how you determine allocation, then it favors the
49 upper river getting an increased allocation. And so that
50 needs to be mentioned as well in that proposal.

00166

1 And in order to figure out, that's just
2 one aspect of it. The other aspect of it is getting
3 spawning escapement on the spawning grounds and when we
4 talk about spawning escapement, we don't want to just
5 think about getting what would be the optimum number of
6 fish to produce MSY, maximum sustained yield, because
7 there's a lot of leading scientists in the world now that
8 believe that that is extremely detrimental to the food
9 web and putting nutrients into the system where these
10 fish end up going to. Because there's all kinds of
11 repercussions when you are only putting enough fish on
12 the spawning grounds to sexually, you know, the actual
13 number of eggs to try to figure it down to a fine point
14 using the Richer model or some other ridiculous model
15 that is going to say that this is what the optimum number
16 of fish breeding is going to produce X number of fish
17 coming back. Because if the groceries aren't there for
18 all these small fish that end up staying in the
19 freshwater, like coho salmon and king salmon, all the
20 nutrients aren't there then you mess up the predator/prey
21 relationships and when the bears don't have enough to eat
22 then they eat all the moose babies and things like that.
23 They don't consider that when they consider figuring out
24 MSY.

25
26 So as far as I'm concerned in these fish
27 runs like the Yukon River where we have extremely large
28 rivers, there's all kinds of subspecies and
29 subpopulations, middle populations, all this other stuff
30 in them, then I don't really think there's such a thing
31 as overescapement. I think one of our big problems
32 that's happened on the Yukon River and in all these
33 Western Alaska rivers is trying to harvest to MSY,
34 especially the Kuskokwim and the Yukon. And so there's a
35 big biological consideration there. We need to quit
36 putting fish on the spawning grounds that does not have
37 good quality escapement, and our king salmon is the best
38 example of that. So that's the biological consideration.

39
40 But then we look and we refer to what was
41 sustainable and we have the historical records here as to
42 what was sustainable. And Tom Kron did make a report for
43 a seminar that was put on in Fairbanks last month, I
44 don't know where I put my copy of it, but he made a
45 little report called the historical analysis of fish
46 regulations for the Yukon River, and everyone here, I
47 think, knows who Tom Kron is. And in that report he
48 listed what's happened just prior to statehood and then
49 after statehood. And like I said earlier 1961 when they
50 did away with -- after they did away with the 50,000 king

00167

1 salmon in the lower river and the 65,000 in the upper
2 river, and they just let them fish on a schedule, they
3 caught around 115,000 salmon and then they closed the
4 subsistence fishery on the Tanana River drainage, that
5 year, that was in 1961. So what we need to do is refer
6 to all this historical data as to what was a sustainable
7 fishery on the Yukon River.

8

9 But when you go through these things,
10 you'll find that on the Tanana River that there's been
11 years where they've harvested as many 400,000 salmon in a
12 year on the Tanana River. Because the Tanana River
13 system is a big producer in the Yukon for both chums and
14 king salmon.

15

16 But those are the -- that's my feelings
17 on these two proposals.

18

19 There's one other thing that I think we
20 need to address that we need to get to the Federal
21 Subsistence Board, and that is that in order to address
22 the king salmon issues, we need the Office of Subsistence
23 Management, whoever the biometricians are that are
24 supposed to be working on a project that is doing an
25 analysis of the length and age of king salmon on the
26 Yukon River since they've been keeping records to
27 determine what, in deed, has happened, that needs to be
28 done prior to the Board of Fisheries meeting. And I know
29 that the request has been made for that study to be done
30 and so we need to let the Federal Board, we need to pass
31 a resolution or something while we're here to make sure
32 that that study is done so that these proposals can be
33 addressed properly with the proper scientific information
34 and not give the Board an excuse, well, we don't have the
35 information so we can't make a decision. That needs to
36 be done.

37

38 And there's one other issue that I think
39 we need to address and forward to the Federal Subsistence
40 Board and I don't know what they can do about it and
41 exactly how we would do this, but it's my feelings and
42 it's a lot of people's feelings like Dr. Mundy, who used
43 to be the head fisheries scientist for the State of
44 Alaska and he works for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill thing
45 on scientific research now, but a lot of people like Dr.
46 Mundy and a number of other leading scientists in the
47 state think that the competition from hatchery fish in
48 the marine environment is having an extremely adverse
49 affect on the productivity as far as the wild salmon
50 stocks. And I do know and, in fact, in my little

00168

1 briefcase here, I have one analysis that was done by the
2 Auke Bay Laboratory by -- I can't think of the guy's name
3 but he's the head GSI guy down there that works for the
4 Salmon Treaty, but they -- when the trawl fleet in, I
5 think, '93 or '94 caught a whole bunch -- about 400,000
6 chum salmon in their trawl by-catch and they got caught
7 catching it, then they did an analysis of the composition
8 of the trawl by-catch in the Bering Sea and they had a
9 big giant surprise, there was only one hatchery in
10 Southeast Alaska that thermo-otolith mark their chum
11 salmon, which is varying the water temperature so they
12 put different rings on their ear bones and they found
13 that a whole bunch of hatchery chum salmon from the
14 Dyepack Hatchery in Juneau were actually caught in the
15 trawl by-catch in the Bering Sea. And these studies were
16 done in '95, '96 and '97 when they did those
17 examinations.

18

19 But we need to somehow get the Federal
20 Subsistence Board to take a look at hatchery production
21 and what it is doing the productivity of the wild stocks
22 in Western Alaska. We all know what's happening in
23 Prince William Sound, Dr. Eggers and Dr. Hilbourne did a
24 study and their results were -- and Dr. Hilbourne is a
25 head researcher out of the University of Washington and
26 Dr. Eggers is a head fisheries scientist for the State of
27 Alaska, both of them, their conclusion was that what
28 happened in Prince William Sound was that the wild pink
29 salmon are extinct basically, they've been replaced by
30 hatchery fish. And then in Southeast Alaska, I think the
31 same thing is happening with chum salmon. And I don't
32 know how many of you are aware of this but the historical
33 harvest of chum salmon in Southeast Alaska from 1960 to
34 1989 was 1.6 million fish, and from 1995 to present it's
35 over 15 million and their anticipated catching 15.4 chum
36 salmon in Southeast Alaska this year of which only
37 about.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virgil.

40

41 MR. UMPHENOUR:three million they
42 say are wild.

43

44 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virg, let's stick to
45 the proposals.

46

47 MR. UMPHENOUR: I'm sticking -- I'm
48 sticking to the proposals. But what I'm doing is.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You're going way off.

00169

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: No, I'm giving just a
2 little bit of background information on hatcheries and
3 what the effects are and someone has to address it and I
4 think the Federal Subsistence Board should address
5 hatchery production. And because of hatchery production
6 having subsistence restrictions on all of the people in
7 Western Alaska. That's the issue here and I'm just
8 giving a little bit of information because I've
9 researched it and studied it and I know a lot of the
10 Staff may not have and I just -- about one more minute on
11 this and I'm done.

12
13 So the only thing I'm saying is is that
14 in Prince William Sound this year, the anticipated
15 harvest that's projected by the State is 92.5 percent
16 will be hatchery stocks and only 7.5 percent wild
17 stocks.....

18
19 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR:in Southeast Alaska
22 it will be 80 percent hatchery stocks and 20 percent.....

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virgil.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR:wild stocks.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Virgil I think we
29 addressed this in our last meeting that we requested the
30 Federal Subsistence Board to work with the National
31 Marine Fisheries to get these hatcheries in the Southeast
32 area to get the thermomark and I don't want to go too far
33 off our schedule. But I want you to, the proposals, the
34 two proposals, the one to lower the two fishing periods,
35 two 36-hour periods to 18-hour periods and you can work
36 on that. And the other one is to reduce the king salmon
37 guideline harvest from 60,000 to 100,000 to zero to
38 60,000. Okay, we got that. And that's the two proposals
39 that you wanted, right?

40
41 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's the two proposals.
42 And I think we should, as I said before, send another
43 resolution to the Council addressing our concerns over
44 hatchery productions and the detrimental effect on wild
45 stocks.

46
47 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, if I may. On the
48 hatchery issue we have an annual report that will be
49 addressing the hatchery issue and it will be coming up
50 later on during the agenda today.

00170

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Then I think
2 we should be moving on with our agenda here.

3
4 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, if there are any
5 other fisheries proposals that the Council would like to
6 submit to either the Board of Fish or to the Federal
7 Subsistence Board, now is the opportunity.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No, I don't think we
10 want to go there right now.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Okay. I'd like to suggest a
13 minor change to the agenda. The next one is fisheries
14 proposal on the Copper River. Since we're on the Yukon,
15 I think we ought to just stick with the Yukon River
16 issues first and then get with the Proposal FP03-19 after
17 the Yukon River fisheries issues, reports are completed.

18
19 And the other item, too, is under agency
20 reports, under No. 11, D3, Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
21 Management Council report. I spoke with Donna Dewhurst,
22 we'll be calling her to do a presentation on the
23 migratory birds regulations. I asked her if she'd be
24 available at 1:30 and she said she would, so if that's
25 the wishes of the Council we can do it at 1:30 or set
26 another particular time.

27
28 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, we'll stick to
31 the Yukon River deal and then we'll go back to the Copper
32 River deal.

33
34 MR. MIKE: The next item is the Yukon
35 River 2002 salmon season summary. It's a joint
36 Federal/State presentation.

37
38 MR. HANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
39 I'm Ray Hander. I'm the assistant fishery management
40 biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working
41 on Yukon River subsistence fishery management.

42
43 As Council members are aware, the U.S.
44 Fish and Wildlife Service has been working closely with
45 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Staff to manage
46 Yukon River subsistence fisheries within Federal
47 conservation units. Last year, 2002, the u.S. Fish and
48 Wildlife Service conducted a pilot study project to
49 monitor in-season subsistence harvest in Emmonak, Nulato
50 and Galena. This project came about from the request of

00171

1 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the three Yukon
2 River Regional advisory Councils about the need to use
3 subsistence fishery information from fishers on the river
4 during the season. This helped managers assess
5 subsistence harvest and combine the information into the
6 management decisions during last season.

7

8 In general surveyed families from these
9 communities indicated that their household chinook salmon
10 needs were met or nearly met during the 2002 season.
11 We're hoping to continue the in-season subsistence
12 harvest monitoring project in 2003 using U.S. Fish and
13 Wildlife Service Refuge Information Technicians in
14 Emmonak, Holy Cross and Nulato even though no funds have
15 been obtained for this project for the coming year.

16

17 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska
18 Department of Fish and Game Staff have been developing
19 the 2003 information sheet which reviewed the 2002 season
20 and provides the 2003 outlook. Audra Brase is with me
21 here today and she's out of the Alaska Department of Fish
22 and Game in Fairbanks and she will review this draft
23 information sheet with you.

24

25 And that concludes my part of the
26 presentation and I'll turn the floor over to Audra to
27 continue with the review of the 2002 season and the 2003
28 outlook and we'll both be available for questions after.

29

30 Thanks.

31

32 MS. BRASE: Thanks, Ray. Again, my name
33 is Audra Brase. I'm the assistant area management
34 biologist for commercial fisheries out of the Fairbanks
35 office that's doing the fall season work. So I don't
36 directly work with summer season so if there's summer
37 season questions I'll try and answer them the best as I
38 can but we'll go from there.

39

40 I handed out copies of the draft
41 information sheet in front of you there. You guys --
42 well, not everybody, there's some new members of the
43 Council here but the majority of you heard our season's
44 summaries last fall so I'm not going to go over there too
45 much again. There's some additional data I'll give you
46 for fall season escapement that we didn't necessarily
47 have last fall. So we'll just kind of go through this
48 information sheet.

49

50 As some of you have probably heard,

00172

1 there's some other meetings at YRDFA, down at Kotlik, our
2 outlook is for poor to below average salmon runs again
3 for 2003. Of course salmon production is anticipated to
4 continue. The 2003 chinook salmon run is anticipated to
5 be similar to 2002. The chum salmon runs are difficult
6 to project pre-season but we're expecting that both
7 summer and fall runs to be poor to below average. For
8 the fall season we have developed a projection for what
9 we anticipate for 2003, and the projection is for 260,000
10 to 650,000 fish, so that's definitely -- that's not on
11 the information sheet, that's just something that we've
12 developed.

13

14 So given these uncertainties, we're going
15 to be managing conservatively again. We're anticipating
16 that enough chinook and summer chum will be available to
17 meet escapement goals and provide for subsistence harvest
18 and there may be a small commercial chinook and summer
19 chum fishery, however, subsistence harvest for fall chum
20 salmon may be less than average. We might have to put
21 some restrictions on the fishery there.

22

23 Management strategies for the upcoming
24 season, we're going to manage for escapement and spread
25 out subsistence harvest opportunity with continuing with
26 the regulatory subsistence schedule. As you've heard
27 earlier, the Board of Fish has given us some direction on
28 how to -- what to do if we do commercial fish down in the
29 lower -- well, throughout the whole river, so we'll see
30 what happens with that if we do end up commercial
31 fishing.

32

33 For sportfish, if necessary, they may
34 have to reduce the daily harvest limit to one chinook or
35 one chum salmon in the Yukon drainage. It's my
36 understanding that that may be happening pre-season
37 depending on how things look but I'm not 100 percent sure
38 about that.

39

40 So based on our evaluation of in-season
41 indicators, because we manage in-season, we may reduce
42 the subsistence fishing schedule sometime after the
43 quarter point of the salmon run, that's when typically
44 when one quarter of the fish have passed by in the Lower
45 Yukon. We would close all other uses unless an
46 escapement of a tributary is protected to be met, and the
47 Federal government would consider a Federal rural
48 subsistence priority on Federal waters if a reduction
49 does occur.

50

00173

1 We are also prepared to allow a small
2 commercial chinook and summer chum fishery near the mid-
3 point of the run. And we are planning on continuing our
4 weekly YRDFA teleconferences that we do throughout the
5 summer. So I would encourage everybody to participate in
6 those.

7
8 The second sheet talks about 2000 --
9 well, do you guys want to make any comments on the first
10 sheet before I move on, I guess.

11
12 MS. WAGGONER: Yeah, I just have one
13 question. You're saying that, you know, there's a small
14 commercial chinook and summer chum may be possible and
15 also saying that you're going to potentially reduce
16 sportfishing, so if you have a commercial season do you
17 still plan on reducing sportfishing later on in the run
18 or would the sportfishery reduction only come if there
19 was no commercial season?

20
21 MS. BRASE: I believe it's only if there
22 was no commercial season is when the sportfishery would
23 be reduced. But I'm not 100 percent sure on that. Fred
24 had mentioned yesterday that they're thinking about doing
25 a pre-season reduction of the bag limit.

26
27 MR. BUE: Mr. Chairman. My understanding
28 and the discussions so far have been with starting with a
29 conservative nature, is to start with some sort of
30 reduction in subsistence but if the run does look good
31 then it may be stepped back up in later in the season
32 when commercial would then -- sportfishing may be
33 liberalized or go forward. But again, the subsistence
34 part of the sport harvest on chum salmon is pretty low.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Philip.

37
38 MR. TITUS: There's a sportfishery on the
39 salmon stocks on the drainage? Where at?

40
41 MS. BRASE: In the Fairbanks area there's
42 a -- on the Salcha River, there's a fairly large
43 sportfishery there.

44
45 MR. TITUS: Is it at the spawning
46 grounds?

47
48 MS. BRASE: It's below the spawning
49 grounds.

50

00174

1 MR. TITUS: But they're going home.

2

3 MS. BRASE: The sportfisheries typically
4 occur in the clear waters, yeah.

5

6 MR. TITUS: How much was the sports
7 harvest this year?

8

9 MS. BRASE: I don't know what that was.

10

11 MR. DOXEY: Mike Doxey, area management
12 biologist for Sportfish Division in Fairbanks. W don't
13 have sportfish harvest figures for this year. We will
14 have them in about another year. We get our sportfish
15 harvest based on -- all of our sportfish estimates based
16 on the mail out survey that we do.

17

18 I can tell you that the five year average
19 for -- the most recent five year average harvest for the
20 Chena River was 584 kings and for the Salcha River was
21 534. And those harvest estimates include essentially
22 zero harvest, harvest of 70 fish in the year 2000 when
23 sportfishing in the Tanana drainage for kings was closed
24 before the fishery really got started.

25

26 MR. TITUS: Thank you.

27

28 MS. BRASE: Okay. A quick review of
29 2002. You see that second page shows what the
30 commercial harvest was and there are some draft
31 preliminary numbers for the subsistence harvest. The one
32 that stands out the most is the chinook at 43,900 fish
33 which is significantly -- it's below what the 10-year
34 average is, about 16 percent. That surprised me when
35 those numbers came back for the subsistence harvest
36 because throughout the season we'd heard that people were
37 meeting their needs for chinook salmon and this 43 --
38 44,000 fish, that's below the amount necessary for
39 subsistence as the Board of Fish has determined. And so
40 I've been going through -- and I'm the one who's in
41 charge of the subsistence surveys and I'm going through
42 and looking at some methodology and things may have
43 changed a bit because with the runs getting lower and
44 lower and people are dropping into lower user groups,
45 this is getting a little bit technical, and so they have
46 a lesser chance of being sampled throughout the survey
47 because we don't sample 100 percent of the people. So
48 because we're sampling fewer people, maybe for some
49 reason we're just not getting the folks who are catching
50 the fish. And so we're thinking about changing those

00175

1 groups for next year. But this could also be true that
2 people did not meet their needs. But people were saying
3 throughout the season that they were, so it's hard to say
4 exactly what's -- what that means.

5
6 This number was -- it was low throughout
7 the drainage so it wasn't just that people on the Tanana
8 River had low numbers and people in the lower river had
9 high numbers, it was throughout the whole river, they had
10 relatively lower numbers than average.

11
12 Summer chum, they met -- they were within
13 the amount necessary for subsistence at about 87,000 fish
14 for subsistence. Fall chum they only got about 20,000
15 fish. We had significant reductions throughout the fall
16 season for subsistence. And coho salmon they got about
17 15,500 fish for subsistence and those were also below the
18 amounts necessary for subsistence.

19
20 Like I said, this information is
21 preliminary. I should have final numbers, hopefully in
22 the next month or so out in my report.

23
24 Let's see, for the chinook salmon run in
25 2002 was approximately twice the size of the 2000 run but
26 that was still well below average. You can see some of
27 the graphs down below there show the relative size and
28 how it's definitely gone down in recent years.

29
30 And are you guys interested in what
31 happened in Canada, Canadian numbers?

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 MS. BRASE: Okay, I won't touch on that
36 then.

37
38 So the outlook for 2003, to reiterate,
39 chinook and summer chum salmon, there may be a small
40 commercial fishery, however the trend of poor production
41 is anticipated to continue and we're anticipating that
42 there will be enough fish available to provide for
43 subsistence for chinook and summer chum. For fall chum,
44 subsistence may need to be reduced and no commercial
45 fishing is expected at all. But again, we will be
46 managing in-season so if the runs come back stronger than
47 anticipated, we're prepared to be more liberal in the
48 subsistence.

49
50 Let's see for Canada's border passage,

00176

1 this year, we have an agreement with them that we're
2 going to pass 25,000 chinook across into the border, if
3 there's no US commercial fishery, if we do have a US
4 commercial fishery, the goal is 28,000 fish. For fall
5 chum we -- the joint technical committee which works with
6 the US/Canada panel, they came up with a new long-term
7 rebuilding goal, so this year we're going to have a
8 border passage estimate -- or border passage agreement
9 between 65 and 68,000 fall chum salmon. And that's going
10 to be stepped up in various years, in 2007 that will
11 start with 72 to 74,000 fall chum, and then in 2011 we'll
12 have a goal of 80,000 fall chum across the border. Just
13 try to rebuild the stocks.

14

15 Our timing decisions for the summer, we
16 may reduce subsistence after the quarter point of the run
17 and we may commercial fish after the mid-point of the run
18 so we are going to hold off and be conservative compared
19 to how things have worked in the past. So it will be
20 similar to how last year 2002 worked out. And the same
21 for the fall season, we'll wait until after the quarter
22 point before we decide on reducing subsistence.

23

24 The final page there gives the
25 subsistence schedule that's been in place since 2001.
26 It's got the two 36-hour periods per week in the lower
27 river and then stepped up as you go up the river.

28

29 If there's any comments on the days of
30 the week we'd appreciate hearing them so we could maybe
31 modify the schedule, if possible, and then go from there.
32 And then also on the bottom it also it shows how the
33 summer chum management plan works out but that was in
34 place last year so that's probably not too much new
35 information for you.

36

37 So that's about all I have for that. If
38 there's any questions that I can answer specific.

39

40 MR. TITUS: I have a question.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Philip.

43

44 MR. TITUS: On this subsistence reporting
45 that they're needs were met, do you think that was to
46 protect to what little fishing time they had, that they
47 said their needs were met? Because I know the needs were
48 not met in Minto, even though there was a little bit of
49 fishing.

50

00177

1 MS. BRASE: I would think if people
2 wanted to protect their fishing time they'd say their
3 needs were not being met so they would continue to get
4 more time, but I don't know.

5
6 MR. TITUS: But they knew beforehand
7 there was so low numbers that they were hesitant to go
8 fishing either.

9
10 MS. BRASE: Uh-huh. So you say people
11 just didn't try fishing because they thought the run was
12 so low?

13
14 MR. TITUS: They were scared to lose what
15 little fish that's left.

16
17 MS. BRASE: Oh, I see they're protecting
18 the run instead of subsistence fishing?

19
20 MR. TITUS: It's not that, that just if
21 there ain't no more fish, there ain't no more fish
22 period.

23
24 MS. BRASE: Yeah. On the Tanana, we did
25 try and target on the coho salmon and the fall chum did
26 come back pretty good or fall season. For summer season
27 they did meet their escapement goals for the Salcha and
28 Chena Rivers for chinook salmon.

29
30 MR. TITUS: Summer chum up Tanana River
31 is not -- is not very good fit for human consumption.

32
33 MR. HANDER: Mr. Chairman. Mr. Titus,
34 were you talking about fall chums.....

35
36 MR. TITUS: Yes.

37
38 MR. HANDER:or salmon in general?

39
40 MR. TITUS: Just that the subsistence
41 needs were when I know they weren't. And why were
42 they.....

43
44 MR. RIVARD: Please use the mic.

45
46 MR. TITUS: The subsistence needs were
47 not met and people around the villages are saying they
48 were met and people up the Yukon River low numbers of
49 moose and they got to depend on something up that way.

50

00178

1 MR. HANDER: Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I think what
4 he's getting at, what he's trying to say is that you're
5 saying that our up river needs were met in some sort of
6 way and in reality they never were and I already told you
7 that in Kotlik. So if you have anything else on this
8 2003 summary, I think we should just keep moving on
9 Donald.

10

11 MS. BRASE: Thank you.

12

13 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, the next item is
14 the US/Canada Salmon Agreement. I believe that was
15 officially signed back in DC last fall and Angela
16 Demientieff from Western Interior was part of that group.
17 And I don't know if there's anybody in the Federal Staff
18 that is aware of the Canadian Salmon Agreement, maybe Mr.
19 Holder do you have any information on the Canadian
20 Agreement, or Fred Andersen. And if the Council has any
21 particularly questions on the US/Canada Agreement, we can
22 take some questions and I can get some answers for you.

23

24 If there's.....

25

26 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. I went back
27 to Washington for the signing of the salmon agreement and
28 Mike Smith also went. I don't know there were, how many
29 of us went, Mike, about 20?

30

31 MR. SMITH: Yeah, there was a whole gang
32 of us.

33

34 (Laughter)

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: Anyway a whole gang of us
37 went to Washington, D.C., we had a good time, got to sign
38 the treaty, sight-see a little bit and BS with the people
39 in the State Department. They have a pretty nice office
40 there, the treaty room. That's about all I have to say
41 about it.

42

43 MR. SMITH: It snowed like crazy.

44

45 MR. UMPHENOUR: Oh, except it snowed and
46 we almost didn't get out of there because those people
47 weren't used to driving in the snow and we had -- Mike
48 and I were in a cab and we had a wreck happen exactly
49 right beside us on the freeway, we almost got in.

50

00179

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: The only thing I
2 would like to say about the US/Canada Salmon Agreement, I
3 hope we just keep our promises to them.

4
5 With that, we'll go to the Coordinating
6 Fisheries Committee update.

7
8 MR. TITUS: Are we going back to the
9 fishing registration?

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No, we're still on
12 the Yukon River.

13
14 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, the Coordinating
15 Fisheries Committee update. The last time -- well, the
16 only activity that happened was during the YRDFA meeting,
17 we sent a couple Yukon River Coordinating Fisheries
18 Committee members to the YRDFA annual meeting in Kotlik.
19 We sent two representatives from the Eastern and two
20 representatives from Western and representatives from the
21 Yukon Delta Regional Advisory Council.

22
23 But we'll continue -- I think we'll
24 continue having the Coordinating Fisheries Committee
25 active.

26
27 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I was there at
30 that meeting that they had the Staff and we pretty much
31 mirrored what they say is the allocation, escapement
32 goals and the opportunity for up river people compared to
33 down river people, that's what we pretty much had at that
34 meeting there.

35
36 I don't see Jill here.

37
38 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, Jill couldn't make
39 it and Ms. Wheeler presented Jill Klein's poster
40 presentation on the wall, I believe, right, and she
41 couldn't be here today so Jill Klein -- unless there's a
42 representative from YRDFA here that we don't know of.
43 I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, Mike McDougell is here.

44
45 MR. MCDOUGELL: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
46 My name is Mike McDougell and I'm a fisheries biologist
47 with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association. And
48 I don't have anything to present on the Coordinating
49 Fisheries Committee report. But, however, I am next on
50 the agenda.

00180

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, go ahead.

2

3 MR. MCDOUGELL: Just briefly, what I'd
4 like to present and I'm handing out handouts of the
5 summary of resolutions approved by the Yukon River
6 Drainage Fisheries Association 13th Annual meeting in
7 Kotlik that we had recently in February.

8

9 Also in the back of this packet, you'll
10 see the 2003 Federal Subsistence Fisheries Proposal form
11 that YRDFA is submitting, and you guys have already
12 discussed this.

13

14 Just briefly I'll run through the summary
15 of the resolutions beginning with 2003-01. Requesting
16 the offshore fishery industry and the National Marine
17 Fishery Service for data at the end of the 2003 showing
18 the results of the efforts made to avoid the salmon by-
19 catch.

20

21 Resolution 2003-02 supporting the future
22 ichthyophonous research which takes into account all
23 researchers and entities working together.

24

25 Resolution 2003-03 YRDFA supports the
26 Proposal 463 submitted to the Alaska State Board of
27 Fisheries by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to
28 clarify current regulations relating to fishing periods.
29 The proposal would end the subsistence fishing schedule
30 and revert to pre-2001 subsistence period regulations in
31 the Yukon River when in-season indicators suggest that
32 the run strength is sufficient in abundance to allow a
33 commercial salmon fishery in that district or
34 subdistrict.

35

36 Resolution 2003-04 support the reworking
37 of the fall chum management plan and the submittal of a
38 proposal to the Alaska State Board of Fisheries for the
39 upcoming 2003/2004 meeting schedule.

40

41 Resolution 2003-05 support the
42 Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee for the
43 submittal of a proposal to the Alaska State Board of
44 Fisheries to change the optimum escapement goal to a
45 biological escapement goal for the Toklat River.

46

47 And finally, Resolution 2003-06 in
48 support of two additional years of funding for the radio
49 telemetry project on the Yukon River with the
50 understanding that important data is being recovered

00181

1 during in-season management.

2

3 And that's all I had to present for
4 today, and I will take questions at this at this time.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Concerning your
7 Proposal 03-04, is that -- that's in support for the fall
8 chum management plan to lower the lower end of the
9 escapement goal -- yeah, the lower escapement goal for
10 all tributaries in the Yukon River from 350,000 to
11 300,000; is that the one we were arguing about down
12 there?

13

14 MR. MCDOUGELL: Mr. Chair, I believe that
15 is the one we were discussing in Kotlik.

16

17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. Any
18 questions for him.

19

20 (No comments)

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. Okay,
23 we'll move on to the Copper River deal, Donald.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, the analysis
26 starts on Page 231, and this is a fisheries proposal
27 submitted by the Copper River Native Association to
28 discontinue the requirement to display names and
29 addresses of fishwheel owners and permit holders on
30 fishwheels in the Upper Copper River district.

31

32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

33

34 MR. BERG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
35 Jerry Berg with the Office of Subsistence Management.
36 And members of the Council.

37

38 I'm going to cover this issue and I know
39 fishery proposals are not normally presented to the
40 Council this time of year so it's a little bit out of
41 sequence since you normally address wildlife proposals
42 this time of year but since this proposal was deferred
43 from the 2002 cycle, there is an effort to try to get
44 this resolved prior to this coming fishing season which
45 is why it's before you guys today.

46

47 This proposal was presented to the
48 Council, I believe at your meeting in Anchorage when we
49 had the tri-Council meeting and was presented to the
50 Federal Subsistence Board and they decided to defer it at

00182

1 that time because there was not a consensus with the
2 State on how to deal with it at that time.

3

4 As Donald said, the proposal was
5 submitted by CRNA for the Upper Copper River District
6 during the 2002 regulatory cycle. The proposal requests
7 that fishwheel owners and operators no longer be required
8 to display their names and addresses on fishwheels in the
9 Upper Copper River district. Only fishwheel
10 registrations would be required as proposed by CRNA.

11

12 The proponent stated that the requirement
13 for signs and names -- for signs with names and addresses
14 was unnecessary. The proponent felt that the management
15 agencies have sufficient information available to them
16 already. As I just mentioned the proposal was addressed
17 by your Council at their fall meeting in 2001, a Staff
18 analysis, your recommendation, as well as the
19 Southcentral recommendations and comments were then
20 presented to the Federal Subsistence Board in December
21 2001. The Board decided to defer action at that time to
22 allow further coordination with the State. Since then
23 the format of the Federal regulation has changed to
24 improve for clarity, that was more of an administration
25 change to make our regulations easier to understand.

26

27 When the Eastern Interior Council
28 addressed this proposal two years ago the Council
29 deferred to the home region, to the Southcentral region
30 at that time. In the spring of 2002 CRNA submitted a
31 similar proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to no
32 longer require under State regulation that names and
33 addresses be displayed on fishwheels in the Copper River.
34 At its February 2003, just this past February meeting in
35 Cordova, the Board of Fisheries acted to allow owners of
36 fishwheels in the Glennallen subdistrict to choose to be
37 identified by name and address or by Alaska driver's
38 license number or by an Alaska State Identification Card
39 number. However, for fishwheel operators other than the
40 owner, they're still required to be identified by name
41 and address on a separate sign.

42

43 The number of fishwheel fishing permits
44 issued for the Glennallen subdistrict has been on the
45 order of 750 to 850 permits in recent years while the
46 number of fishwheels is only on the order of about 100
47 fishwheels per year. If permit holders in addition to
48 the owner are associated with the fishwheel it would not
49 be possible to assign responsibility among them without a
50 sign requirement.

00183

1 An element of the State regulation that
2 was not brought over to the Federal regulation in the
3 past, but which may be implicit is that the fishwheel
4 owner is responsible for the fishwheel. Given that
5 multiple users may share a fishwheel this is a good
6 reason for explicitly stating owner responsibility.

7
8 Enforcement officers may obtain a list of
9 fishwheel owners and associated permit holders from
10 agency staff before going out on patrol of the fishery.
11 Signs displaying names and addresses aide enforcement but
12 there are local concerns with the lack of privacy for
13 having to display those signs with addresses.

14
15 There are limitations on how current the
16 permit holder list may be that's provided to the
17 enforcement officer. Multiple offices issue permits and
18 permit holders often intend to immediately go out fishing
19 after they obtain their permit, so it's difficult to keep
20 those lists up to date as the need to be.

21
22 The regulation approved by the Board of
23 Fisheries provides flexibility for the fish owner [sic]
24 to continue to display either their name and address on
25 the sign, mounted on the fishwheel or instead to address
26 themselves by their Alaska Driver's License or
27 identification card number. Fishwheel operators other
28 than the owner will continue to be required to display a
29 sign showing their name and address as adopted by the
30 Board of Fisheries just last month.

31
32 The approach taken by the Board of
33 Fisheries is an attempt to find a reasonable balance
34 between the local desire for confidentiality and the need
35 to effectively identify fishwheel owners and other
36 operators for enforcement purposes.

37
38 The proposed Federal regulation as
39 modified in the Staff analysis would parallel the State
40 regulation recently enacted by the Board of Fisheries.

41
42 Modification is also recommended to make
43 explicit that the fishwheel owner is responsible for the
44 fishwheel if something were to go wrong with the
45 fishwheel or there was some issue with it.

46
47 The Southcentral Regional Council also
48 met just a couple of weeks ago and they supported the
49 proposal as modified in the Staff analysis. With the
50 additional modification that plastic be allowed for signs

00184

1 in addition to either wood or metal.

2

3 So that's consistent with the Board of
4 Fisheries action but had inadvertently been left out of
5 the draft analysis. Staff further note that the minimum
6 size requirement of the owner sign was inadvertently left
7 out as well but that will be added in the final analysis
8 presented to the Federal Board for their action.

9

10 So Mr. Chairman, that's all the
11 information I have on this proposal. I'll be happy to
12 try to answer any questions the Council may have.

13

14 Thank you.

15

16 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, I don't
17 really like to go across boundary to the Southcentral.
18 But if they agreed to it I'll leave it up to you guys,
19 but if we're doing this as a proposal, I would have to
20 listen to the State side of it, too, so you could just
21 keep sitting there. Did you want to say something Terry.

22

23 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The
24 Department supports this proposal as modified by the
25 Southcentral Regional Council. As Jerry explained the
26 way the State -- new State regulation as listed here was
27 incorrect and that it didn't include plastic that could
28 be used for a the name.

29

30 And just also for the record, the
31 Department's comments on this proposal on Page 230 are
32 incorrect. Comments that were printed in here deal with
33 Unit 6(C) moose hunting. We sometimes are accused of
34 losing our minds but we haven't gone quite that far yet.

35

36 (Laughter)

37

38 MR. HAYNES: So we support this proposal
39 as modified by the Southcentral Regional Council.

40

41 MS. WAGGONER: Has CCRNA made any
42 comments regarding the modification?

43

44 MR. BERG: I'm not aware of any. I
45 believe that they're on board with the agreement as it
46 exists but I'm not sure about that. I know that Pat
47 Petrivelli was at the meeting in Southcentral, maybe she
48 could help.

49

50 MS. WAGGONER: Okay.

00185

1 MS. PETRIVELLI: If Fred John's here, he
2 -- but -- but I do think they were at the Board of Fish
3 meeting when the proposal was passed.

4
5 MR. JOHN: Thank you. John Hart and some
6 of the Ahtna people were there and they agreed with us.
7 They're all from CRNA.

8
9 Thank you.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We could either
12 support them, defer or shoot it down, I'll leave it up to
13 you guys, what you want to do.

14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think we should support
16 it. Actually there's a number of people in our RACs
17 region that operate subsistence fishwheels in this area.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: So was that a motion.

20
21 MR. UMPHENOUR: I think we should move.
22 I'll move to adopt Proposal FP03-19 as modified.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: By Southcentral.

25
26 MR. UMPHENOUR: As modified by the
27 Southcentral RAC.

28
29 MS. WAGGONER: Second.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been seconded.
32 Discussion.

33
34 MS. WAGGONER: Just as a subsistence
35 fishwheel user down there, I don't see any problem and I
36 wholly support it.

37
38 MR. STEVENS: Question.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved and
41 seconded and the question has been called. All those in
42 favor of Proposal FP-03-19 as modified by the
43 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council, signify by saying
44 aye.

45
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Those opposed, same
49 sign.

50

00186

1 (No opposing votes)

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion carries.

4 What's next.

5

6 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, I believe the
7 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program was presented to
8 you yesterday and there's no more reports for the
9 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program.

10

11 The next item on the agenda is the 2002
12 annual report, review and approval, it's under Tab D.

13

14 The annual report for 2002 is -- the
15 annual report is a forum where the Council can bring up
16 issues that are outside of the regulatory process. And
17 this is an avenue for the Council to bring up issues that
18 the normal regulatory process cannot address.

19

20 But as Mr. Umphenour was discussing
21 earlier about the thermomarking and this was discussed at
22 our last meeting in Fairbanks on the thermomarking of
23 hatchery raised fish. And the Council moved to send a
24 letter to the Federal Subsistence Board and this is a way
25 to bring issues up to the Federal Subsistence Board that
26 they may help address or direct questions to other
27 agencies to help out the Council.

28

29 But anyway, this was the thermomarking of
30 hatchery fish was brought up last year and this is -- as
31 a result of the discussion this is the thermomarking of
32 hatchery fish was addressed through the annual report.
33 If you have a chance to read it, it's just one
34 thermomarking -- that's one of the species that were
35 brought up last year.

36

37 There is no other issues to bring up so.

38

39 If there's any other particular questions
40 ont eh draft annual report we can add it or approve it or
41 make changes to the report or add it as an agenda item.

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'd like to add
44 more things to our annual report to the Federal
45 Subsistence Board, and that's about these two proposals
46 for the Lower Yukon from 36-hours to 18-hours, those two
47 periods. And lower the guideline harvest since it's in
48 more Federal water like the Federal Board to support our
49 two concepts there. So the guideline harvest and to
50 reduce the fishing period. And I want them to maybe add

00187

1 to that thermo-marking issue, about that hatchery fish
2 competing with wild stocks, I want something to mention
3 that. You probably have it down there. And I want
4 something mentioned in our annual report, too, that the
5 opportunity provided compared to the down river in our
6 region, the Eastern Interior, our opportunities for
7 fishing for salmon, all species is not equal, too, and
8 that should be referred to in mentioning the guideline
9 level be lowered from 60,000 to 100,000 to zero to
10 60,000, that could be mentioned in there. And something
11 to the effect -- in our annual report, something to the
12 effect that -- I know we're going to be dealing with it
13 pretty soon, that we're prepared to deal with the
14 predator/prey control in the Yukon Flats area. They're
15 trying to do something now, we got to support them in
16 every way we can to bring up their moose harvest
17 population for it -- be sustainable. Because if they
18 depend on fish and there's low numbers of fish and that
19 more or less brings them on to depending on the other
20 resources in their region and that is moose and their
21 caribou is being turned away. We got to support them in
22 their rebuilding plan for their moose population.

23

24 And there was another thing that I had
25 that I wanted to be in the annual report but if you guys
26 have anything else that you want to add to our annual
27 report or put in or make corrections to it just speak up
28 now.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: The one other thing that
31 we maybe should put in there, if this is the appropriate
32 place to put it and that is we discussed a little bit
33 earlier about the study that Office of Subsistence
34 Management is doing on the age and length of the king
35 salmon historically in the Copper River drainage, and
36 maybe this would be a good thing to put in there as well.
37 The importance of having that completed prior to the
38 Board of Fisheries meeting to address Yukon River
39 proposals this coming winter.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Are you sure that's
42 all you guys want in the annual report. Is that pretty
43 much.....

44

45 MS. WAGGONER: I don't know if this would
46 go in annual report, just that the Woodland Caribou Herd
47 there at Chisana in the north end of the Wrangell-St.
48 Elias Park, the concern over losing that subspecies and
49 that particular stock.

50

00188

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: With all that being
2 said and done, with all those -- you got all those
3 additions that we mentioned there, Donald?

4
5 MR. MIKE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: When is this annual
8 report going to be due to the Federal Subsistence Board?

9
10 MR. MIKE: It will be due before they
11 meet in May. So we have plenty of time between now and
12 May to develop it, to finalize the draft.

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. You don't need
15 no action on it?

16
17 MR. MIKE: If the Council can just
18 summarize what they want on this, for clarification on
19 the annual report, that would be good at the most.

20
21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Just go over it there
22 for Donald.

23
24 MS. WAGGONER: Okay. What I got down for
25 additions to the annual report.

26
27 Changing of the window schedule in the
28 Lower Yukon from 36 to 18 hours.

29
30 Lowering the guideline harvest and he
31 gave you the numbers.

32
33 Statement regarding that opportunity in
34 the Eastern Regional Interior area is not equal to that
35 of the Lower Yukon for subsistence fishing.

36
37 That the Eastern region is prepared to
38 deal with predator control issues in the Yukon Flats to
39 provide sustainable numbers of moose.

40
41 To ensure or to move forward the
42 age/length study be completed by Alaska Department of
43 Fish and Game prior to submittal of proposals to the
44 Board of Fish.

45
46 And working to protect the Chisana
47 Woodland Caribou Herd in the north end of Wrangell-St.
48 Elias National Park and Preserve.

49
50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You don't need no

00189

1 action on that Don?

2

3 MR. MIKE: I got the list, so if you want
4 to just go ahead and pass a motion to add those to the
5 annual report.

6

7 MR. RIVARD: You don't need to pass a
8 motion for that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: To Virgil's concern,
11 we could pass a motion to have them do that age/length
12 study to be completed. Do you want to do something to
13 that effect, Virgil?

14

15 MR. UMPHENOUR: I move that we send a
16 resolution to the Federal Subsistence Board expressing
17 our concern that the age/length study on chinook salmon
18 for the Yukon River needs to be completed prior, at least
19 30 days prior to the Board of Fisheries meeting to
20 address Yukon River issues.

21

22 MS. WAGGONER: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved,
25 seconded, discussion.

26

27 MR. STEVENS: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Question has been
30 called. All those in favor of this motion signify by
31 saying aye.

32

33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed,
36 same sign.

37

38 (No opposing votes)

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion carries.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: One more thing. I don't
43 know whether it would do any good or not, but the
44 ichthyophonous, I feel is a super big problem and a lot of
45 other people do as well, and I don't know we got a little
46 bit of a report yesterday from Polly, I think, but is
47 there anyone on the Staff that has any idea when we might
48 get anymore information on the ichthyophonous other than
49 what we already have?

50

00190

1 MS. WHEELER: Mr. Chair. Mr. Umphenour,
2 I talked to Staff, FIS this morning, and there's two
3 different projects dealing with ichthyophonous, one is a
4 project that was funded the first year of the program,
5 that was 00 -- it's the first project on your chart.
6 That has been completed and the report's out for review.

7
8 The second project, there was some
9 problems with the statistical analysis and our
10 statistician at FIS is helping Dr. Kossan with that.
11 Now, it's my understanding and maybe those folks in the
12 room that were at the JTC meeting can speak to this but
13 it's my understanding that they actually -- they are
14 funding a project on ichthyophonous with Dr. Kossan. They
15 just decided that they're going to fund that project. I
16 wasn't at that meeting. I know there's a couple of
17 people in the room that were so maybe they can speak to
18 that.

19
20 But as far as the FIS funded projects,
21 that's the status of those two projects, Mr. Umphenour.
22 Mr. Chair.

23
24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, Don, I think
25 we'll move on with our deal here if there's nothing else
26 on this deal, we'll go to the Office of Subsistence
27 Management, customary trade.

28
29 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, under Tab E you
30 have briefings starting with customary trade update,
31 written briefing, and Mr. Rivard will be doing the
32 presentation.

33
34 MR. RIVARD: Good morning, again, Mr.
35 Chair. Eastern Interior Council members. My name is Don
36 Rivard, I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management.
37 And many of these topics were for informational only and
38 to prompt any discussion you might have or any questions
39 you want answered from our office. On Page 259 under Tab
40 E is the briefing on the customary trade, an update and
41 then just right after that are questions and answers.
42 Those same question and answers have gone into the latest
43 Subsistence Management Regulations for the harvest of
44 fish and shellfish that have just been published.

45
46 Customary trade is now a regulation in
47 the Federal regulations, and that can be found under
48 general provisions for taking fish on Page 7 of this
49 Subsistence Management Regulations Fish Book. So it is
50 on the books now.

00191

1 We talked a little bit about it a little
2 while ago and there are opportunities, just like other
3 wildlife and fisheries regulations that this can be --
4 proposals can be put in to change this regulation as any
5 individual or group of people see fit. And then it would
6 go through the same process as these other regulations
7 that come before the Council and then eventually there
8 would be a decision made by the Federal Subsistence
9 Board. So the customary trade one is on the same cycle
10 as other fisheries proposals.

11
12 So for instance, this year if people
13 wanted to submit a proposal to change the regulation
14 they'd have to have it in by the end of the week because
15 the fisheries proposal deadline is this Friday.

16
17 I don't have anything on that, in
18 particular, if you have any comments or questions I'll
19 try to answer them.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think we pretty
24 much hashed this out for the last three years and I'm
25 glad it's there and I'm just glad it ain't so restrictive
26 to some people. The customary trade questions and
27 answers, I think we all seen that, I don't know, I think
28 we did.

29
30 MS. WAGGONER: Don, in looking at Page,
31 it's Roman Numeral IV, it's the question and answers, and
32 my question is the first one, it talks about, as a rural
33 resident, who can legally sell subsistence harvested
34 fish, and the third paragraph of the answer states that a
35 rural resident who holds a commercial fishing and/or
36 limited entry permit can engage in this activity. So
37 what's the understanding -- I mean why the need of the
38 YRDFA proposal to specifically add that. Is this kind of
39 like this year's catch-all because it didn't get in there
40 or do you have an answer?

41
42 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Trisha, if you
43 look at the rest of that, it's a rural resident who holds
44 a commercial fishing license may engage in customary
45 trade only when conducted separate from his or her
46 customary trade fishing activities. So that's one
47 clarification.

48
49 The preliminary read I saw on the YRDFA
50 proposal is they have -- it sounds like they want to

00192

1 address certain license holders and I'm not familiar
2 enough with it, but there's a specific group that should
3 be exempted or something, I'm not quite sure what they
4 mean.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more questions.

7

8 (No comments)

9

10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Then let's move on to
11 C then Donald, statewide rural determination written
12 briefing.

13

14 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, I'll answer that
15 as well. I've got something to hand out to you guys as
16 well.

17

18 (Pause)

19

20 MR. RIVARD: As the Council members are
21 probably aware the Office of Subsistence Management about
22 two years ago now, let out a contract to ISER and --
23 which is the University of Alaska's Institute Social and
24 Economic Research in collaboration with Dr. Wolfe and
25 Associates to do -- to come up with two methodologies for
26 looking at how to determine rural and non-rural with
27 regards to the Federal Subsistence Management in Alaska.
28 That contract has been completed, there's a draft report
29 out from ISER, it's now going through peer review. And
30 once we get the peer review, then it will go to the Board
31 to make their selection on one, if any, of the
32 methodologies and then that will come under public review
33 and it will come before your Council as well as the
34 others. And we're not real sure on the time table, we
35 hope that that could possibly come to you all at your
36 fall meeting, but I think it may be more likely that it's
37 going to happen about a year from now.

38

39 And this that I handed out to you is a
40 summary report of that kind of showing where things are
41 going. This is not the full report, this is just a
42 summary. We thought this would be a good way to hand it
43 out. If, at some point any of you would like the full
44 report, that's available, it can be found on the web
45 site, I believe, but also we can get you hard copies and
46 you can just contact Donald Mike and he'll get one to
47 you.

48

49 Thank you.

50

00193

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I guess since we're
2 in Nenana, I forgot to ask this question last night about
3 this rural determination. I don't see them in here, but
4 I was asked last night if they were going to make Nenana
5 a rural or a non-rural, so do you got any clue to that
6 question or an answer to that?

7
8 MR. RIVARD: I plead the Fifth Amendment.

9
10 (Laughter)

11
12 MR. RIVARD: No, I have no idea. We
13 wouldn't even venture a guess. At this point it's too
14 preliminary. And I would be way out of line if I even
15 tried to guess, I believe.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All right, thank you.
18 Okay, Donald we'll move on to the regulatory coordination
19 protocol.

20
21 MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard, again. This is
22 found on Page 267 in your book under Tab E. And it's
23 just kind of an update with where we're at with the
24 regulatory coordination protocol. It's behind schedule
25 on the schedule you see on Page 268. As you'll see in
26 the middle of that list there under regulatory
27 coordination protocol timeframes and deliverables, it was
28 at first anticipated that it would be before your Council
29 at this meeting but they're a little bit behind schedule
30 so it's probably something you will see at your next
31 meeting.

32
33 And I don't have any first hand knowledge
34 of this process, I've not been involved in it so I can't
35 give you a whole lot more information than what's in your
36 book. There's a possibility that somebody else here may
37 be able to answer any questions you might have.

38
39 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. Terry Haynes,
40 Department of Fish and Game. I'm a member of this
41 protocol work group and the purpose of this draft being
42 in your book is to just give you a head's up as to where
43 we are in drafting the protocol. So you can see the
44 topics that are being covered and on Page 272, we
45 indicate in this draft that we hope to have a public
46 review draft ready to be distributed in May. And this
47 group will be meeting again before then to finalize work
48 on a preliminary draft.

49
50 But this is a very important protocol,

00194

1 because as you know, Council members and trying to deal
2 with State and Federal regulations, we in the agencies
3 trying to coordinate efforts, it's real important that we
4 make some progress on this protocol. So we're not
5 getting out in front of anybody on this but this is just
6 to give you a head's up and if you have questions or
7 comments that we should take into consideration as we
8 revise this preliminary draft, I'd be very happy to take
9 those back to the work group.

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, since we
12 make a lot of recommendations and stuff to the Federal
13 Subsistence Board, I still hold me and Craig Fleener's
14 belief that you guys should keep on working together,
15 both Federal and State so that we could have information
16 from both sides and that we -- I believe that this
17 Council still supports the idea that you guys keep
18 working together.

19

20 MR. HAYNES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, we'll move on
23 to change in Regional Council membership for 2003
24 nomination cycle.

25

26 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I'll
27 address that as well. As you know there was some changes
28 made in Council make up and that's starting to go into
29 effect with this cycle now, this year. The people that
30 have applied, our office will start looking at filling
31 Council seats for commercial and sport interests as well.
32 Your Council is going to expand to 10 members starting
33 next year, this meeting next year at this time there will
34 be 10 members.

35

36 There's a transition period of three
37 years to fully implement these changes. At the end of
38 those three years, in 2006, the Council will be made up
39 of seven people who self-designate themselves as
40 subsistence users and then three that are commercial
41 and/or sport interest. People can apply, anybody can
42 apply. They still have to be from the region for which
43 they're applying and they have to self-designate what
44 group that they want to be considered for.

45

46 The rest of the process continues where
47 there's a nominations panel that gets together and people
48 are interviewed and references are checked and all that.
49 And at the end of this implementation period of 2006, if,
50 for example, there would not be anybody in a certain

00195

1 cycle that designated themselves as a commercial or sport
2 interest, then those seats would be left -- that one seat
3 or more might be left vacant and then your Council will
4 be made up, for at least that one year, for how many
5 members there are and then you'd have to have a quorum
6 for the existing members, not for the 10. So if you had
7 a couple seats vacant that didn't get filled from the
8 commercial or sport interest, example, and had an eight
9 member Council then you'd have to have a quorum of five.

10

11

12 I'll try to answer any questions if you
13 have any.

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know I been
16 opposed to this since the beginning. I believe we do
17 have commercial interests already on this board. And I
18 don't see no way that you guys should have been pushed by
19 political whims or other interest groups into this
20 because I don't see how commercial or sport interests is
21 going to protect the rural Federally-qualified
22 subsistence user. It seems like to me it's going to be
23 against their true intent of gaining or being supportive
24 of the Federally-qualified users. And that's just my
25 personal comment.

26

27 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, if I may. The
28 result -- the changes have resulted from the Department
29 of Interior doing a nationwide review of FACA compliance,
30 which is the Federal Advisory Committee Act. And when
31 they looked at our program there was the assessment that
32 in order to fully comply with FACA that Councils had to
33 also have representation from people who are designated
34 from the commercial and sport interest.

35

36 So this is something that came from the
37 Department of Interior which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
38 Service is under. And there's been changes to others --
39 I mean it was a nationwide review so it wasn't just
40 Alaska and ANILCA Councils that were looked at.

41

42 Thank you.

43

44 MR. TITUS: It seems like to have a
45 commercial seat on the board we need a commercial season
46 and the way the fish are going it's just a moot point to
47 have a commercial when there ain't no fish.

48

49 MR. RIVARD: If I may. Mr. Chair. Mr.
50 Titus, these commercial and sport interests can also be

00196

1 filled by commercial guides, hunting guides, fishing
2 guides, sportfishermen, sport hunters, so it's not
3 necessarily just commercial fishermen.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, because we
8 already got one member so.....

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: We have two. Philip
11 commercial fishes, he's just not telling people.

12

13 MR. TITUS: Customary trade.

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Let's not go there
16 right now. Well, if there ain't no more questions on
17 this FACA deal, let's go down to F, call for Federal
18 Subsistence proposals, and I think we already did that
19 for proposals to lower that 36-hour, but if you guys
20 could think of anymore, Federal Subsistence Fisheries
21 proposals that would apply on the Eastern Interior and
22 most of the Yukon Flats, Upper Tanana or Yukon-Charley or
23 Wrangell-St. Elias, say your peace or forever hold it.

24

25 MR. RIVARD: Yeah, and if I may, Mr.
26 Chair, another reminder that March 28th is the deadline
27 to get proposals into our office. If people, either the
28 Council members or people in the office are planning on
29 submitting a proposal and quite get it in by Friday
30 because they're here or whatever, they can call our
31 office and tell us that it's on it's way and we can do
32 kind of a placeholder on it if we know it's coming within
33 the next week.

34

35 Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Anymore.

38

39 (No comments)

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Hearing nothing, go
42 on to Council charter review.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, basically the
45 Council charter review is to look at the -- we're
46 required to review the charter every two years, on the
47 odd year, I believe, and for next year I think it's going
48 to have to be changed and in our fall meeting maybe we
49 can just review the charter and bring that up and make
50 some appropriate changes.

00197

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: So, what you're
2 saying is we can just deal with that next fall?

3
4 MR. MIKE: That's correct, Mr. Chair.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, then keep
7 moving on. Agency reports, briefing on concerns, issues
8 related to subsistence, copy of key points briefly would
9 be appreciated. Okay, move on to Native corporations,
10 rural village or tribal councils, agency reports.

11
12 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, he have only a few
13 minutes until lunch. I got a resolution from David James
14 regarding the designating seats for tribal government and
15 he wanted me to hand out the resolution to the Council
16 members, to basically just ask that the Tanana Chief
17 Conference and board of directors support having at least
18 60 percent of the seats on the Federal Subsistence
19 Regional Advisory Council be designated for tribal
20 government nominations and the Board of Directors
21 supports the tribal governments to be recognized as
22 governments which represent their tribal members.

23
24 I'll just go ahead and pass out the
25 resolution from David James.

26
27 One other thing I forgot to mention, Mr.
28 Chair, I overlooked on the ACRs during our discussion,
29 Mike Smith from Tanana Chiefs wanted to comment on the
30 ACRs and if it's the wish of the Council you may want to
31 hear from TCC on ACRs. But on the resolution, TCC wants
32 to elaborate on that, that would be great, too.

33
34 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

35
36 MS. ENTSMINGER: What is an ACR?

37
38 MR. MIKE: I'm sorry, agenda change
39 request. That's a term that the Board of Fish uses to
40 take up proposals out of cycle.

41
42 Mr. Chair, do you have any particular
43 questions on the resolution submitted by the tribal
44 government of Yukon. Mr. Smith may be able to talk a
45 little bit about it but it's up to the Council.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What you guys want to
48 do. This is a Tanana Chiefs Conference Board of
49 Director's resolution, right?

50

00198

1 MR. MIKE: Yes.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe
4 it's.....

5

6 MR. RIVARD: To the mic please.

7

8 MR. SMITH: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

9 Mike Smith, Tanana Chiefs. I don't believe it's a Tanana
10 Chiefs resolution it's just the village of Tanana
11 resolution -- or from Fort Yukon.

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: But it does have
14 Tanana Chiefs Conference headline on there though.

15

16 MS. WAGGONER: Mike, I know they
17 submitted it to the TCC annual meeting as part of the
18 resolution packet, I don't know if it passed or not
19 though.

20

21 MR. SMITH: I'm not real sure if it
22 passed either. I think it was referred to the E-Board
23 for consideration and then the E-Board was anticipated to
24 take it up.

25

26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, I wouldn't want
27 to really go into this too much because I don't want to
28 dabble in that FACA thing too much, it seems like it's
29 already being done and I don't want to fight no losing
30 battles to put it to speak.

31

32 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, yeah, we have
33 some concerns about the resolution and the implementation
34 of it. And we just feel that if we were to go down that
35 path that there's a lot of questions that need to be
36 answered and a lot of work, some prep work to get those
37 type of provisions embodied into the Federal law.

38

39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Mike.
40 Then I think we should just move on. I don't think we
41 have to deal with this right now.

42

43 Is there any other tribal council or
44 village corporation, is there anything?

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think we should
49 recess for lunch.

50

00199

1 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, when we get back
2 from our recess at lunch we can start off with the
3 migratory bird presentation by Donna Dewhurst. We'll be
4 calling her in and she'll do a presentation and I'll have
5 a handout.

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. 1:30.

8
9 (Off record)

10
11 (On record)

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd like to call this
14 meeting back to order.

15
16 Mr. Chair, I handed out a hand out, it's
17 called the 2003 Alaska Spring Summer Subsistence Bird
18 Harvest for all the Council members. Fred Anderson [sic]
19 from the Migratory Birds Office and I believe Donna
20 Dewhurst will do the presentation on the subsistence
21 Alaska spring/summer birds.

22
23 Thank you.

24
25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Good afternoon, Mr.
26 Chair. Council members. My name is Fred Armstrong. I'm
27 the executive director for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-
28 Management Council. I have here with me Bill Ostrand and
29 Donna Dewhurst who are Staff to the Council also. I'm
30 not sure how much time you guys want to allot for us to
31 give a presentation. We can be as short as you guys want
32 or as thorough as you guys want, so kind of give me some
33 sort of direction here so that we can react accordingly.

34
35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think we'll listen
36 to the short version.

37
38 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Here's the short
39 and sweet things here.

40
41 Back in '97 when the migratory bird
42 amendments were ratified by Congress, it authorized the
43 Federal government to put together a program to regulate
44 the closed the season which was from March 10th to
45 September 1. Since then we've done that. We've created
46 11 regional management bodies based along the ANCSA
47 boundaries. The Eastern Interior is represented by
48 Tanana Chiefs Conference. It's got one of the larger
49 regions, along side with YK-Delta.

50

00200

1 In your batch of hand outs you should
2 have a colored version of the proposed regs that deal
3 with your region. These dates and recommendations were
4 provided to the statewide council by TCC's management
5 body back last spring. Basically what we've done is
6 acted on their recommendations and submitted to the
7 Service regulations committee who will meet next week to
8 act on these recommendations.

9
10 When we were addressing the issue of the
11 season, even though the closed season is from March 10 to
12 September 1, we had to adhere to the Mexican Treaty which
13 restricted hunting timeframes to four months or when you
14 compute the math out it comes out to 122 days and so you
15 look at the open season from April 2 to June 14 and July
16 16 to August 31. That's taking into consideration a 30
17 day closure as required by the Japanese Treaty. The
18 Japanese Treaty has language in there that says that the
19 season will be closed during the principle nesting
20 season. Prior to that it was deemed that March 10th
21 through September 1 was the principle nesting season.
22 And of course, all these birds, by September 1 are pretty
23 much gone or out of the way out of the state so we don't
24 have much of an opportunity. And so, you know, that's
25 the reason why they recommended the dates as they are.

26
27 The closed season you guys would have to
28 adhere to to June 15th to July 15th, and that's closure
29 for all bird hunting. You look at the prohibited means
30 and methods. We've just included a few just to have a
31 baseline of restrictions that people will have to adhere
32 to when they're hunting.

33
34 And feel free to interrupt at any time
35 you have questions about these. I'm going to try to go
36 through these relatively fast.

37
38 The next thing I want to cover is in the
39 third page of this handout you have a reg sheet that
40 shows the birds closed to harvest, birds and eggs. And
41 it lists them, the specktaclad, stellers, emperors and
42 Aleutian Canada geese, and the Aleutian Canada geese are
43 only recommended for closure on the Semidi Islands. The
44 cackling Canada geese eggs and the black brand eggs are
45 closed in the YK and North Slope area only.

46
47 Then we have the list of birds that
48 potentially could be harvested. It's quite an extensive
49 list especially when the Interior, where a lot of these
50 birds don't inhabit. But the plan is to have this sent

00201

1 back out to the regions for them to refine it by regions
2 so that if we can reduce it, if possible.

3

4 Out of this list there was 23 birds that
5 were identified as birds of conservation concern. For
6 some reason or another there's a decline in population,
7 either dramatic or or a slow decline and they're on the
8 Federal watch list for appropriate action such as
9 threatened or endangered.

10

11 In our proposed rule we had asked the
12 general public to comment on these birds, whether or not
13 they should remain on or off or just keep part of the
14 list or take the entire list off, those options were up
15 to the public. The comment period has since closed, it
16 closed on March 12th, we're in the process of reviewing
17 all the public comments and submitting appropriate
18 recommendations to the Service regulations committee.

19

20 I should mention this is not a Title VIII
21 program under which authority you guys operate right now
22 for fish and game. The authority for our program rests
23 with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. And the final
24 authority for management of all migratory birds lies with
25 the Fish and Wildlife Service. The instrument we utilize
26 is a co-management agreement between the State, the
27 Federal government and the Alaska Native community. They
28 all operate as equals. We've got 11 Native
29 representatives as well as one State and one Federal
30 representative sitting on the Council. For the TCC
31 region your representative is Mike Smith, who's a TCC
32 natural resource person. Any comments, questions or
33 concerns or recommendations for changes in these
34 regulations, should they become final, you can direct
35 them to Mike Smith and the appropriate regional
36 management body up there.

37

38 Any questions so far.

39

40 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, can you hear
41 me?

42

43 MR. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

44

45 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yeah, this is Sue
46 Entsminger from the Mentasta Pass area. I had a question
47 on the time line, if the period of comment is closed,
48 what is the period we have for further comments about the
49 whole program?

50

00202

1 MR. ARMSTRONG: As I mentioned the
2 comment period has closed. We're going to go ahead and
3 have the regulations committee act on those comments and
4 the proposal package as a whole. We have coming up May
5 15 and 16 is a council meeting for the '04 regulations,
6 the 2004 season. If you have any comments or proposals
7 you want to submit, now is the time, the comment period
8 is open from, I believe March 1 through April 30th, so
9 you have until April 30th to come up with either your
10 comments or proposal to change the regional
11 recommendations -- regional regulations or you want to
12 introduce a new proposal, that would be the time to do
13 it.

14
15 MS. ENTSMINGER: Okay.

16
17 MR. ARMSTRONG: Does that answer your
18 question.

19
20 MS. ENTSMINGER: Yes, thank you.

21
22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Any others.

23
24 (No comments)

25
26 MR. ARMSTRONG: Now, I should mention a
27 little bit about included and excluded areas because
28 we're different from the Title VIII program. The treaty
29 amendments specify included areas, those are areas that
30 are allowed to harvest migratory birds. And the language
31 in the treaty reads, anything north and west of the
32 Alaska Range, including the Aleutian Islands, the Kodiak
33 Archipelago, and I believe that's it. So it covers
34 pretty much almost all of Alaska including Bristol Bay.

35
36 Excluded areas are the major boroughs,
37 like the North Star Borough, Fairbanks North Star
38 Borough. The regional boundaries for that are excluded
39 from participation, as well as the Anchorage, Mat-Su
40 Boroughs, and all of Southeast Alaska are excluded from
41 participation in this program. However, they've left
42 open a mechanism for a community to petition for
43 inclusion for a specific purpose, such as -- you know, we
44 always allude back to Hoonah who's requesting permission
45 to gather eggs during the springtime which they've done
46 for a long time.

47
48 I should also mention that the real
49 restrictive language we have in there that is kind of
50 like a guiding force is that when we open this season

00203

1 that it will not increase the current harvest levels in
2 relation to the birds national population. Meaning that,
3 you know, in the past it's been a closed season and now
4 all of a sudden it's legal and we've got some communities
5 that we're concerned about, such as Kodiak, the city of
6 Kodiak which has a population of 10,000 and about 11,000
7 of those don't have a customary and traditional history
8 of harvesting birds during the spring and summer. Or
9 some other communities such as Glennallen, Cordova, Tok,
10 where the local demographics which don't have a history
11 of harvesting these birds during the spring and summer,
12 so, you know, actually that was one question I was going
13 to pose to the Council, do you guys -- if you guys have
14 any concerns about Tok, Delta Junction or Ft. Greely, you
15 know, it would be good for our office to know so that we
16 could start conducting the appropriate research, you
17 know, to come up with a recommendation for a proposal or
18 something like that.

19

20 And of course, in the past in the
21 Interior there's been an issue with access on major
22 waterways with the use of air boats and that may pose a
23 problem, you know, you certainly might want to consider
24 that issue and if need be, take appropriate action. But
25 those are some of the lingering concerns we have with the
26 Interior, otherwise we hope to formally legalize this
27 hunt as soon as we get a final rule published sometime
28 next month.

29

30 The other hand out you have is a Q&A
31 sheet that pretty much will explain to you, you know,
32 some of the questions that may be lingering in your mind,
33 there's answers to them there. You've got a list of the
34 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council members.
35 There's been a couple of changes in the Copper River
36 Native Association, Joneil Hicks has replaced Gloria
37 Stickwan and Matt Robus has replaced Wayne Reglin on the
38 State side. I haven't heard of any other changes. But
39 that gives you an idea of who sits on the statewide
40 council.

41

42 Then you have the draft 50 CFR 92 which
43 is the authority that will govern the subsistence harvest
44 of birds.

45

46 That's pretty much it.

47

48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I have a comment
49 here. Yeah, concerning Ft. Greely, I don't think we
50 should allow them to be able to participate and have more

00204

1 people, especially that came from out of state and
2 doesn't have a proven track record of being a Federally-
3 qualified subsistence user, I don't think they should be
4 allowed to be hunting in this thing because they'll be
5 competing directly with the Federally-qualified
6 subsistence users.

7

8 MR. ARMSTRONG: Are they a separate group
9 from the Delta Junction, because they're pretty close
10 together?

11

12 MR. RIVARD: Say that last comment again,
13 Fred.

14

15 MR. ARMSTRONG: You know, the Ft. Greely
16 area, does that include the Delta Junction too or just
17 specifically.....

18

19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think in our last
20 determination for something for customary trade issue,
21 that we excluded the Ft. Greely and Delta Junction area
22 and we only included Healy Lake and Dot Lake in our
23 determination on that.

24

25 MR. ARMSTRONG: Okay. Now, remember we're
26 operating on a different authority.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, you asked for
29 our opinion and we gave it to you.

30

31 MR. ARMSTRONG: I think when you talk
32 about a Federal subsistence user, we don't use that term,
33 we don't use the term rural in any of our.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, you're just
36 going to have to comply with our terms that we are
37 dealing with.

38

39 MR. ARMSTRONG: Any other questions,
40 comments.

41

42 (No comments)

43

44 MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, what about, do you
45 guys have any concerns about them?

46

47 MR. RIVARD: About what Fred? Say that
48 again about what?

49

50 MR. ARMSTRONG: The community of Tok and

00205

1 involvement in this spring program. Because everything
2 hinges back to what I stated earlier about the harvest
3 levels will not increase so that communities that have
4 never before practiced this activity will certainly
5 increase the level of harvest so take that into
6 consideration when you're going to make a decision about
7 these communities.

8

9 Because if we have to.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I don't think we're
12 going to go through discussing the Tok area. But I do
13 have something to say about air boats. I think that's an
14 unfair advantage, plus, how are you going to get up close
15 to waterfowl using air boats when you know they get
16 scared miles away before they even see the air boat.

17

18 I think that's all the questions and
19 comments that we had concerning the Alaska spring/summer
20 subsistence according to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

21

22 MR. ARMSTRONG: Great. Thanks for those
23 comments. That concludes our presentation.

24

25 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

26

27 MR. ARMSTRONG: I'm just going to go
28 ahead and hang up.

29

30 MR. RIVARD: Okay, go ahead Fred.

31

32 MR. ARMSTRONG: All right, bye-bye.

33

34 MR. RIVARD: Bye.

35

36 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chair, if I might just
37 add something to the discussion of the Migratory Bird
38 Treaty.....

39

40 MR. HILE: Go to the microphone Mike.

41

42 MR. SMITH: The Migratory Bird Treaty
43 Council is made up of sort of regional bodies, of course,
44 and we have one here in the interior and I anticipate
45 having a meeting here probably next month at some point.
46 At that time if there are certain proposals that you
47 would like for us to submit, feel free -- you know, we'll
48 certainly submit them and take them to the full Migratory
49 Bird Council meeting in April.

50

00206

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we can continue on
4 with agency reports if we don't have any other tribal
5 councils or regional councils. The Alaska Department of
6 Fish and Game is next on the agenda if they got any
7 agency reports to present, now is the time.

8

9 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, go ahead.

12

13 MR. HAYNES: Mr. Chairman. Terry Haynes,
14 Department of Fish and Game. I believe all of the
15 Department Staff have left except for me and for Caroline
16 Brown. And Caroline if you'd stand up. Caroline is a
17 new employee of the Subsistence Division, comes to the
18 Division with a lot of research experience in rural
19 Alaska and she's a real asset to the Division. Some of
20 you will be seeing a lot more of her as she gets around
21 the state.

22

23 There's a new regional program manager
24 for Subsistence Division in the Interior Region, Jim
25 Simon, who some of you also may know from his former work
26 with Tanana Chiefs Conference. I just wanted to alert you
27 to the fact that there are those two new Staff members in
28 the Subsistence Division.

29

30 In the absence of any other Department
31 Staff members being here, if you have any questions or
32 information needs that I can take back to the Department
33 and get back to you I'd be happy to do that. But as
34 usual, thank you for allowing us to participate in your
35 meeting, we appreciate it.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, we do
38 appreciate it to, Terry.

39

40 MR. MIKE: I believe on the agenda is
41 Bureau of Land Management is next.

42

43 MS. MCSWEENY: Mr. Chair. Council
44 members. My name is Ingrid McSweeny. I'm with the
45 Bureau of Land Management. I'd like to introduce Tim
46 Sundlov. Tim's relatively new with the Bureau. He was
47 hired approximately a year and a half ago. And Tim heads
48 up the Tazitna weir project.

49

50 We passed out a hand out to you guys and

00207

1 it lists three projects that we're currently working on
2 and I'll start.

3

4 The first project is a new project. It's
5 Harrison Creek Restoration project. And Harrison Creek
6 is a tributary to Birch Creek National Wild River located
7 in the Steese National Conservation Area. We've
8 documented juvenile chinook salmon at the mouth of the
9 creek for the past five years. Historically the drainage
10 was placer mined for gold. For about 10 years the
11 majority of the mining claims in the basin went abandoned
12 and void. This year we received funding through the
13 abandoned mine lands program to initiate a project to
14 reclaim approximately two miles of abandoned mine lands
15 in Upper Harrison Creek. The intent of the project is to
16 reduce the amount of inorganic sediment eroding from the
17 stream channel while allowing anadromous and resident
18 fish populations to expand previously mined areas.

19

20 The main objectives of the project are to
21 design a river channel that mimics an undisturbed natural
22 channel in the drainage, reduce the environmental
23 degradation by stabilizing recontouring washed in the
24 plain and restore riparian habitat. Additionally an
25 aquatic habitat monitoring program will be established to
26 quantify the effects of reclamation.

27

28 And I wanted to bring this project to
29 your attention because there has been a lot of mining
30 claims in the national conservation area that have gone
31 abandoned and void and this project is a pilot project to
32 come up with the most effective way to reclaim these
33 areas. So in the future we're going to be reclaiming a
34 lot of areas in Birch Creek.

35

36 The next project is a visitor use
37 subsistence monitoring project and it came about when the
38 Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association requested that
39 Federal Subsistence regulations for Beaver Creek and
40 Birch Creek be aligned with State regs and that increased
41 opportunity be provided for subsistence users.

42

43 As a result of this appeal the existing
44 subsistence fishing regulations were modified and
45 subsistence users were allowed to harvest freshwater
46 species in previously closed areas in Beaver and Birch
47 Creek. In order to conserve salmon stocks in the
48 drainage, restrictions in gillnet mesh were established
49 when adult salmon are present, and that's mainly mid June
50 to mid September to protect spawning chinook and chum

00208

1 salmon in Beaver and Birch Creek. Consequently the BLM
2 agreed to monitor subsistence fishing activities and
3 visitor use in the drainages during periods of peak
4 salmon migration. Last summer BLM conducted overflights
5 on Beaver and Birch Creek. These flights were conducted
6 every four days with fixed wing aircraft. From June 5th
7 to September 18th approximately 210 persons were counted
8 on Beaver Creek and 308 persons were counted on Birch
9 Creek. Peak use periods were July and September. No
10 subsistence fishing activity was observed throughout the
11 monitoring period on either Beaver or Birch Creek.

12

13 This year the BLM will continue
14 monitoring visitor use and subsistence fishing activity
15 on Beaver and Birch Creek. Overflights will be conducted
16 weekly as opposed to every four days.

17

18 Do you have any questions or comments.

19

20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Anything.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 MS. MCSWEENY: Thank you.

25

26 MR. SUNDLOV: As Ingrid told you, my name
27 is Tim Sundlov and I'm a biologist with the Bureau of
28 Land Management. I just wanted to address you all on a
29 new escapement project within the Yukon drainage.

30

31 There was an escapement and run timing
32 gap identified in the middle Yukon area for chinook and
33 summer chum and this was identified by Yukon River
34 Fisheries managers. So the Tazitna River was chosen as a
35 middle Yukon sub-basin index stream to provide accurate
36 escapement and run timing data for summer chum and
37 chinook.

38

39 The Bureau of Land Management and Tanana
40 Tribal Council and Tanana entered into a five year
41 cooperative agreement in 2000 to develop and implement an
42 escapement project on the Tozitna River. BLM and Tanana
43 Tribal Council are committed to the mutual goal of
44 managing the resource for the conservation and production
45 of salmon important for the well-being and living of the
46 people within the Yukon drainage.

47

48 The long-term goal of this agreement is
49 to develop and implement building blocks necessary to
50 develop a fisheries program in Tanana.

00209

1 As far as funding for this project,
2 funding was secured for 2003 through BLM funds and OSM
3 and the project has also been -- a proposal put in or
4 2004 for the OSM Board.

5
6 As far as escapement data from last year,
7 we monitored escapement with a floating weir and we
8 counted approximately 1,500 chinook and 19,000 summer
9 chum. And sex ratios for summer chum were 36 percent
10 female with a sample size of 721 and 13 percent female
11 for chinook with a sample size of 433. And I can go into
12 any more detail if you guys have any questions on data.

13
14 Yes, Mr. Umphenour.

15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Did you do a
17 sex ratio in 2001 or just count the fish in 2001?

18
19 MR. SUNDLOV: We did do a sex ratio in
20 2001. Unfortunately our methodology was a tower count,
21 so our sex ratios in 2001, I wouldn't consider the data
22 extremely accurate because it was a carcass survey and
23 the location of the -- we weren't able to sample the
24 entire run coming through only certain locations that you
25 were able to obtain carcasses using a boat and low summer
26 flows made it difficult to obtain carcasses from the
27 entire reach of the river.

28
29 But in 2001 there was 41 percent female
30 chinook but that was a small sample size of 63.

31
32 MR. UMPHENOUR: It was 41 percent in
33 2001?

34
35 MR. SUNDLOV: Correct. With extremely
36 low sample size, though, 63 so I don't know what kind of
37 interpretation you can make from that.

38
39 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you. Now, my next
40 question is, you have the age of them, 41 percent age
41 four, 40 percent age five and 18 percent age six. Could
42 you tell me the approximate size of these four and five
43 year olds?

44
45 MR. SUNDLOV: I don't have that data with
46 me but I can get that to you tomorrow.

47
48 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, I would
49 appreciate that. Would it be safe to say that the four
50 year olds were about the size of a small chum salmon?

00210

1 MR. SUNDLOV: Yeah. There was a large
2 component of the run that was made up of smaller four
3 year old chinook salmon. They were -- I don't have the
4 length measurements but they were small.

5
6 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, thank you. And
7 you're in the Fairbanks office?

8
9 MR. SUNDLOV: Correct.

10
11 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay, I would appreciate
12 that data because it's going to be good information as
13 far as our proposals that we're making.

14
15 MR. SUNDLOV: Sure.

16
17 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more questions.

18
19 (No comments)

20
21 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you.

22
23 MR. SUNDLOV: Thank you.

24
25 MS. MCSWEENEY: Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Donald.

28
29 MR. MIKE: Fish and Wildlife Services,
30 Refuges.

31
32 MS. FRIEND: Mr. Chairman. My name is
33 Connie Friend from the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge and
34 Council. First of all I'd like to commend you for your
35 really fine work. Every time I come to these meetings
36 they get increasingly complex and overwhelming and I'm
37 just amazed at the work that you do and really want you
38 to know that we appreciate it very much.

39
40 For my report. The Tetlin Refuge is
41 continuing with our ongoing scientific study of whitefish
42 in collaboration with Randy Brown, the fish biologist
43 from the Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Service office, and
44 also with our traditional knowledge study of the
45 fisheries of the Upper Tanana River drainage. We have
46 some new partners this year and especially for next year
47 we're partnering with ADF&G and Caroline Brown who you
48 were just introduced to and also with Norm Easten who is
49 an anthropologist and archeologist located in Whitehorse,
50 Canada. And Norm has actually been doing research in the

00211

1 Upper Tanana for the last 10 years so we're just really
2 grateful to have him with us. And continuing we have
3 Gary Holten, the assistant professor and linguist with
4 the Alaska Native Language Center and Paul Melanowski, a
5 language specialist in the Upper Tanana Language.

6

7 Our proposal for '04 has been promoted to
8 the investigative plan stage so we would definitely
9 especially appreciate a letter of support from you all,
10 that would be really helpful.

11

12 Our moose survey wasn't able to be done
13 last year because of bad weather conditions but a copy of
14 the progress report for 2002/2003 has been sent to Gerald
15 and Tricia and I can make those available. I have two
16 copies. If anybody wants to see the full report, I can
17 get you a copy if someone would like to have it to keep.

18

19 The population estimates for 1990 -- 2000
20 -- 2001 are listed in Table 2 and you have that table in
21 your report. And then we combine the survey that we did
22 with what ADF&G had done and that was for 2001 and it
23 indicated that the estimated number of moose in
24 approximately 95 percent of suitable habitat in Unit 12
25 was 3,600 moose. The ratio of calves per 100 cows was
26 33.2 which is similar to the estimate and generally
27 higher than ratios recorded during past trend surveys in
28 the study area. And that Table 3, with that information
29 is listed in the full report.

30

31 From the report, it said this ratio is
32 indicative of good calf production in a low density moose
33 population. We observed far more moose during the survey
34 than we did in 2000. Increases occurred across the board
35 so the relative proportion of wolves, cows and calves
36 observed was similar between years. Not surprisingly the
37 population estimate for moose and corresponding density
38 increased substantially from the 2000 estimate and was
39 even higher than that obtained during the 1990 survey
40 which covered a larger area.

41

42 The Tetlin Refuge opened a subsistence
43 caribou hunt for one bull only on Refuge lands late in
44 October last year and the current population estimates
45 for the herd are about 34,000 caribou which is
46 approaching the management goal of between 35 and 40,000
47 animals. The hunt is still ongoing and scheduled to come
48 to an end April 30th. Approximately 100 hunting permits
49 were issued, 57 permits and six designated hunter permits
50 were issued to residents of Tok, 36 permits and one

00212

1 designated hunter permit was issued in Northway and five
2 hunting permits were issued to residents of Tanacross,
3 one permit was to an individual at Border, Alaska. The
4 reporting data isn't yet available from the regional
5 office. But to date, the Nelchina Herd is ranged through
6 the Refuge in small groups in late fall and early winter.
7 Very few harvests have been reported to our office in
8 Tok, but, again, we don't have the full data yet.

9
10 And some good news for us, we're planning
11 to relocate in our new temporary quarters, either late
12 summer or early fall. And this is an adjacent log
13 building that we've just been working on that will be
14 adjacent to our seasonal housing facilities. And we're
15 continuing with our work with the Alaska Public Lands
16 Information Center and the Department of Transportation
17 to build a world class visitor center where we will
18 eventually be housed permanently.

19
20 This concludes our report and we thank
21 you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: For your request for
24 a letter of support to these ongoing scientific study of
25 whitefish and the TEK study, they were not funded for
26 2004?

27
28 MS. FRIEND: The scientific study was
29 funded for this year and the TEK study was not, however,
30 I got a challenge cost share study to keep going -- a
31 challenge cost share grant to keep going through '03.
32 For '04 it hasn't been decided yet but I know the TEK
33 study has been advanced to the investigative plan stage.
34 I would expect the same -- the scientific study has been
35 funded all along. Randy Brown takes care of that, but I
36 know he would appreciate your support as well.

37
38 But the TEK study definitely would
39 benefit from your support.

40
41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay. Ida, what was
42 your comment.

43
44 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
45 Ida Hildebrand, BIA Staff Committee member. Just a
46 caution, to remind the Council that the study that she's
47 asking a letter of support for is going to come before
48 you in your next meeting during the fall. So if you're
49 going to put a letter out that would be the appropriate
50 time or else you would be before the wagon.

00213

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. I think
2 we shall move on to the next agency report -- next Refuge
3 report then.

4
5 MR. WHITEHILL: Mr. Chair. Board. My
6 name is Barry Whitehill, I'm the deputy Refuge manager at
7 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. So you get the
8 same agency you get a different Refuge.

9
10 I'm here with.....

11
12 MS. BROWN: Wennona Brown, subsistence
13 coordinator for the Yukon Flats, Arctic and Kanuti.

14
15 MR. WHITEHILL:so I thought -- we
16 didn't prepare a formal handout but quickly we'd like to
17 share some of the things that we have going on the Yukon
18 Flats.

19
20 I think like Connie pointed out, same
21 thing at Tetlin, we didn't have the conditions to do our
22 annual fall moose survey so it's been held off until this
23 week as a matter of fact. And so that's being conducted
24 right now. We have observers from Stevens Village and
25 Beaver that are jointly working with us. So we're in the
26 process and it sounds like things have been going well on
27 that moose survey there.

28
29 Also this coming summer we are continuing
30 with a whitewing scoater project, black duck project to
31 find out more about the nesting, ecology of those birds,
32 secretive birds up on the Yukon Flats, important
33 subsistence species and lesser scaab (ph).

34
35 As well as we've initiated last year a
36 moose winter browse vegetation survey, and that was done
37 the last, end of May, first part of June, where we've
38 gone out and gone back to areas where moose were
39 concentrated in the wintertime and looked specifically at
40 the species they were browsing. So that will continue
41 this year as well.

42
43 And from my side of things -- oh, one
44 other thing, we're in the process of advertising a pilot
45 law enforcement fisheries type position that I guess our
46 thoughts are that as the fish interest as well give us
47 capability of flying-wise, that there'll be a position
48 there that hopefully will be filled by this summer.

49
50 So that's my side of things.

00214

1 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. Council members.
2 Just kind of a few updates on some of the things I've
3 been working on. I'm still in the process of gathering
4 the Federal moose permits from Unit 25(D) west, so I
5 don't have a full count on what was reported on the
6 harvest from 25(D) west yet.

7
8 Things I'll be working on for the spring
9 is conducting steel-shot clinics. And I plan to be in
10 Fort Yukon April 28th and 29th, in Beaver April 30th and
11 May 1st, and then out in Circle May 5th and 6th. And
12 also along that line, Arctic Village is -- the Arctic
13 Refuge is going to be conducting a steel-shot clinic in
14 Arctic Village May 8th and 9th, and I think they're also
15 going to include a hunter education class in association
16 with the school with that clinic.

17
18 Another thing of interest is I do have
19 an announcement on the street right now for a second RIT
20 position for the Yukon Flats Refuge. This would be a
21 complimentary position to Paul Williams, who I think most
22 of you know. That position -- the closing date is this
23 Friday. I do have copies of the announcements and
24 application forms, if anybody knows anybody in one of the
25 Flats villages that would be interesting. The closing is
26 postmark by the 28th.

27
28 I'm also in the process of working on a
29 couple of challenge cost share grants. One of them is a
30 cleanup project and we're looking at projects in
31 conjunction with Venetie, one with Beaver and one with
32 Stevens Village.

33
34 I'm also working on a second challenge
35 cost share project, and it would be in conjunction with
36 TCC, Fort Yukon and possibly Chalkyitsik on studying some
37 inventory and identifying some cultural properties. And
38 those would be some site visits with elders to document
39 some of the areas and some of the importance of the
40 various sites across the Refuge. And we've identified
41 five sites we want to visit and as we flesh that out,
42 hopefully, this week, and we're really excited about that
43 one and hopefully we get that working.

44
45 And that's about all I have. If anybody
46 has any questions.

47
48 MR. STEVENS: I heard -- I caught wind a
49 month or so ago that you guys were conducting a chinook
50 tissue sampling project; is that correct?

00215

1 MR. WHITEHILL: Our Staff isn't involved.
2 I would defer to anybody here from the fisheries office
3 that potentially could address that. I don't know if
4 anybody's aware of anything.

5
6 (No comments)

7
8 MR. STEVENS: I'm seeing some shaking
9 heads so I could follow up with that.

10
11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

12
13 MR. WILLIAMS: You mentioned the fact
14 that you're having a aerial moose survey and you have two
15 observers, one from Beaver and one from Stevens Village.
16 Is there any plans to have a moose survey down around the
17 Venetie area in the near future?

18
19 MR. WHITEHILL: Well, these sample areas,
20 I believe on this 25(D) west, that's our portion and then
21 the State, Bob Stephenson, has conducted the 25 east
22 portion of it. You know, and I'd have to go back and
23 look at the survey area. I would suspect at times it
24 gets up on that southern edge of the Venetie area, but of
25 course, you know, the Venetie -- you know, that area
26 would be outside of our jurisdiction. But we get up
27 fairly close to it.

28
29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I guess that's one of
30 those questions you're going to have to ask Bob, Larry.

31
32 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.

33
34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more questions.

35
36 (No comments)

37
38 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you. Who's
39 next Donald?

40
41 MR. MIKE: The Refuges, if there's any
42 fisheries people that want to present to the Council,
43 otherwise we can get into the next -- Ray Hander.

44
45 MR. HANDER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
46 just have some informational information for you.

47
48 It's the whitefish study that Connie
49 Friend alluded to. This covers the years 2000 through
50 2001 -- excuse me, 2000 through 2002. And if you do look

00216

1 in the back, Page 25, it does allude to further
2 investigation so he is going to be working again this
3 year doing some more radio telemetry. And just to fill
4 in that kind of question gap there, I think.

5
6 That's all I had, thank you. Any
7 questions I'll try to field but I'd be better off going
8 to Randy Brown for them.

9
10 MR. TITUS: Last December or November we
11 had a meeting in Fairbanks, some kind of meeting, and I
12 asked him about the whitefish study because fall time
13 when the fish run there's a bunch of whitefish in the
14 fish box, same time, but I guess we got to ask Randy
15 Brown that question.

16
17 MR. HANDER: Yeah, I remember, I think
18 talking with you about that. And, yeah, Randy is
19 certainly the whitefish expert in our office there that
20 would be better to go to.

21
22 MR. TITUS: But in your talks to him did
23 he ever say the populations were increasing or
24 decreasing?

25
26 MR. HANDER: I -- you know, I remember
27 specifically telling him that you were interested in
28 information and I thought you showed up at the office.

29
30 MR. TITUS: I did.

31
32 MR. HANDER: Oh, okay. I did not ask him
33 any of those questions specifically so pick on him again,
34 he's in the office there. Sorry.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Ray.

37
38 MR. HANDER: Thank you.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Other people from the
41 Fish and Wildlife Service want to say anything to us.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Then let's move on to
46 the National Park Service -- oh, no, not Fred.

47
48 MR. ANDERSEN: Mr. Chairman. Members of
49 the Council. My name is Fred Andersen and most of you, I
50 know most of you folks but just for the record I was the

00217

1 manager for Commercial Fisheries Division on the Middle
2 and Upper Yukon River for 16 years and I then was
3 involved -- I worked for the Sportfish Division for the
4 next 10 years or so with responsibility for recreational
5 fisheries in the Yukon drainage in other parts of
6 northern and western Alaska. I retired for a couple
7 years and then came to the National Park Service about
8 three years ago and for the Park Service I'm their
9 fisheries biologist for Gates of the Arctic, Denali and
10 Yukon-Charley.

11

12 And my comments for you today don't apply
13 specifically to any of those Parks except to the extent
14 that some residents of Central, Circle, I believe and
15 Eagle fish within the Yukon-Charley National Preserve.

16

17 Instead of talking about Parks specific
18 issues, I'd like to burden you just a little bit with a
19 couple observations and thoughts about the Yukon River in
20 its current state. The regulations and management
21 strategies currently on the books, the management plan
22 currently on the books are products of about 40-plus
23 years of evolution. Hard work by the Board, hard work by
24 professional fishery scientists. And over the years as
25 long as the stocks were healthy they worked pretty well,
26 some exceptions, some glitches here and there, some oops
27 management from time to time, but by and large the
28 regulations and management strategies were appropriate in
29 my opinion.

30

31 As you all know, though, all too well,
32 some of you, the stocks, chinook stocks, summer chum
33 stocks, and fall chum stocks, coho seem largely
34 unaffected by whatever it is that's going on just,
35 without warning, abruptly collapsed beginning in 1998.
36 And as far as I'm aware there's no evidence of this cycle
37 of depressed productivity turning around. It may bounce
38 back in a year or two, it may come back this coming year.
39 But I don't see any reasons for optimism in the near
40 term.

41

42 In spite of this downturn in
43 productivity, this stock collapse, the fisheries,
44 commercial and subsistence fisheries continue to be
45 managed more or less the same as they were when these
46 stocks were healthy. And in my opinion, it's just flat
47 not working. I think it's time for some fairly radical
48 changes, at least until these stocks recover to their
49 former levels of productivity.

50

00219

1 right on in my opinion. And I looked at it district by
2 district, species by species, and I won't burden you with
3 the species by species accounting.

4

5 But as you wind up your meeting and
6 consider ideas for proposals, you might want to consider
7 a couple of things that I've thought about that may help
8 us meet escapement in the near term. I think it would be
9 helpful to delay the opening from the mouth of the river
10 all the way to the Canadian border on early run stocks.
11 Not stop fishing them completely, but just have a
12 progressive step-wise opening to let some of those early
13 fish through.

14

15 I think that windowed openings are a
16 necessity. I think we need to, as Virgil put it, put
17 through some of these fish unmolested throughout the run.

18

19 I think that the restrictions currently
20 in place ought to be in place drainage-wide throughout
21 the migratory range of Yukon River fish. Currently
22 fishing is allowed seven days a week in the coastal
23 districts, seven days a week in the Koyukuk drainage,
24 seven days a week in subdistrict 5A and it seems
25 appropriate to me that those folks should shoulder some
26 of the burden as well.

27

28 I think that the mesh size issue is worth
29 looking into and OSM has graciously agreed to do this
30 analysis and I sincerely hope that that's done by the
31 next series of Board meetings.

32

33 I would ask that you consider a
34 moratorium on commercial fishing until the stocks
35 recover. And that's -- this is haracy, I realize, may
36 well not happen, but given the difficulty to determine
37 run strength on an in-season basis, given the fact that
38 going back to the Canadian chinook stocks four of the
39 last five years where we did not make escapement goals
40 were years in which we fished commercially. The one year
41 where we met the goal, in 2001, there was no commercial
42 fishery.

43

44 And I also suggest consideration of a
45 moratorium on customary trade. As you know the Federal
46 Subsistence Board adopted customary trade regulations for
47 the Yukon -- well, statewide. But in my mind it's
48 essentially unregulated and in my opinion it's contrary
49 to the terms of ANILCA. That management be conducted
50 consistent with best conservation practices. It's not a

00220

1 good conservation practice to allow the harvest, much
2 less the sale of fish from stocks where we're not able to
3 meet escapement objectives.

4

5 That's all I had. If you have questions
6 I'll try to answer them.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

9

10 MR. WILDE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
11 Haven't the Canadians had a commercial harvest the last
12 few years?

13

14 MR. ANDERSEN: Russ could probably help me
15 out with this. They had a small commercial opening --
16 they called it a commercial opening this year. It was
17 triggered by a need to recover some tags from their mark
18 and recapture experiment, their fishwheel project at the
19 border. They needed to examine some fish so they could
20 see the marked/unmarked ratio and then use that data to
21 generate their abundance estimate.

22

23 MR. WILDE: Yeah, I have no problem with
24 cutting off some of my seven day a week but if they're
25 getting commercial harvest I do. And also do you happen
26 to know the price they get for their commercial fish?

27

28 MR. ANDERSEN: I don't know the price but
29 my recollection was is they caught about 1,190 kings
30 commercial and on our side we caught about 24,000.

31

32 MR. WILDE: In years past I talked to
33 commercial fishermen I know from Dawson and they get like
34 30 cents a pound, I mean that's cat food in my book.

35

36 MR. ANDERSEN: I don't know what to say
37 to that. One other thing, I ran into Jack Reakoff, a
38 member of the Western Interior Advisory Committee at the
39 Board meeting last week, and he asked me to pass on to
40 you a statement that they submitted to the Board of
41 Fisheries, they, the Western Interior Council submitted
42 to the Board of Fisheries regarding ichthyophonus,
43 commercial fishing in 2002, escapement levels in 2002 and
44 the two proposals that they deliberated on yesterday
45 regarding the windowed fishing schedule. And with your
46 permission, I'll just give that to Mr. Williams and let
47 him pass them down.

48

49 Thank you.

50

00221

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Donald, who's next.

2

3 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, we have National
4 Park Service from Denali.

5

6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It looks like we
7 don't -- doing nothing with what we got from the Western
8 Interior do we?

9

10 MR. MIKE: No, that's information.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Hollis.

13

14 MR. TWITCHELL: Mr. Chair. Council
15 members. I'm Hollis Twitchell, I'm with Denali National
16 Park. I have just a few items to bring to your attention
17 that deal with subsistence that were dealt with by the
18 Subsistence Resource Commission for Denali so I'll go
19 over those. There's about five items and I'll keep them
20 brief.

21

22 The current appointee from Eastern
23 Interior to the Denali SRC is good until November this
24 year so we won't deal with a reappointment or an
25 appointment until their next meeting cycle so we're good
26 there in terms of membership.

27

28 One of the items the SRC responded to in
29 their last meeting dealt with a Back Country Management
30 Plan issue for Denali. The Back Country Management Plan
31 is a plan that's being developed and out for public
32 review now and it deals with a recreational and
33 commercial use of Denali's back country. It does not
34 deal with subsistence management directly. Our
35 subsistence management plan developed with our SRC is the
36 guiding document for subsistence use programs. There is
37 some situations where recreational use has the potential
38 to impact subsistence use and in those instances, the SRC
39 has come forward with a couple of recommendations.

40

41 One of them was dealing with a proposal
42 within the Back Country Management Plan that looked at
43 the Preserve on the north side of Denali. Denali has two
44 Preserves, the south Preserve and north Preserve. The
45 Park Service was approached by the guiding industry
46 asking for consideration of opening the north Preserve to
47 guided hunting. There currently is not any guiding
48 hunting activity that goes on in our north Preserve. In
49 consideration of that, an element was put into one of the
50 alternatives, not the preferred alternative as far as the

00222

1 Park Service is concerned but one of the other
2 alternatives does address establishing a guide in our
3 north Preserve. This would be the area within 20(C) just
4 south of Lake Minchumina, which is in the Eastern
5 Interior Regional Council area.

6
7 The SRC responded to that particular
8 proposal and passed a motion opposing the introduction of
9 guiding activities in that north Preserve.

10
11 This Back Country Management Plan is out
12 for review through May 7th, and there'll be public
13 meetings held in various locations from Anchorage to
14 Fairbanks, including a public meeting in Lake Minchumina
15 in April so that the local community will have an
16 opportunity to input on that element if they choose.

17
18 The second aspect the Commission
19 responded to was recreational snowmachining impacts on
20 the south side of Denali near Cantwell. Cantwell is in
21 Southcentral Regional Advisory Council. But the SRC has
22 raised an issue there regarding traditional subsistence
23 use around Cantwell identifying a number of drainages
24 where they wanted to see very low levels of recreational
25 use activity that were the traditional use areas for
26 Cantwell. That being the Bull River drainage, the
27 Cantwell Creek drainage and the Windy Creek drainage. So
28 that motion has been passed and that information will be
29 advanced for the public review comment.

30
31 The third item I was going to mention was
32 north access. There has been interest in providing
33 another access corridor into Kantishna in the Denali
34 area. The Congressional mandated review of that is under
35 way now. This was a mandate by Congress that we look at
36 north access and there's two congressional mandates that
37 are outstanding. One deals with the Park Service looking
38 at commercial facilities that may be located along the
39 north access should it go in and the second one is to the
40 Denali Borough, a non-NPS entity to look at the
41 feasibility of the north access corridor.

42
43 Those two particular projects are of
44 great concern to the SRC, they have officially gone on
45 record as early as 1986 to the Secretary of Interior
46 through a formal hunting plan recommendation recommending
47 that there be no new road access into Denali because of
48 concerns in terms of resources and subsistence use
49 activities. They reiterated their position, once again
50 to the Secretary and to the Congressional delegation as

00223

1 well as the Borough and the State of their concerns about
2 potential impacts to subsistence uses on the north side.

3

4 The fourth item I was to mention is that
5 we are continuing to be involved with the State in a
6 Kantishna River fall chum salmon abundance study which
7 involves capture, mark and release of fall chum salmon in
8 the Kantishna River drainage. The State handles the
9 capturing process as well as to recapture wheels in the
10 Toklat and the NPS involvement is a recapture wheel on
11 the Kantishna River, the Upper Kantishna River. That
12 will continue to be funded again this year, this will be
13 the 5th year that the Kantishna fall chum abundance work
14 has been underway.

15

16 Last year the data from the three
17 recapture fishwheels came out with an estimate of 56,665
18 salmon into the Kantishna River drainage and that was
19 with a confidence interval of plus or minus about 4,100
20 fish.

21

22 The final item is that we have received
23 funding from FIS for traditional ecological knowledge
24 looking at fish resources in some of the northern
25 villages in the Denali area. That work is being done
26 consecutively with harvest monitoring information. This
27 last summer we were in the village of Nikoli and through
28 a cooperative agreement with the Subsistence Division we
29 had researchers working with the local community and the
30 tribal council to do harvest assessments and traditional
31 knowledge in terms of fisheries resources in Nikoli. We
32 also spent five days in Lake Minchumina with some local
33 help to do harvest assessments in the Lake Minchumina
34 community and data from that will be forthcoming here
35 this next year.

36

37 So with that that would conclude the
38 comments I would have of issues that are directly related
39 to subsistence use on the northern part of Denali.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do you want any
42 action from us or anything?

43

44 MR. TWITCHELL: I'm not expecting any
45 action from you, I just wanted to make sure that you were
46 aware that there are several proposals here that could
47 directly affect subsistence use.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I think we
50 heard that in our fall meeting and I think we took a

00224

1 little action in opposing a couple of those deals.

2

3 Thank you.

4

5 MR. TWITCHELL: It's just informational.

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Virg.

9

10 MR. UMPHENOUR: I wanted to ask you you
11 said there were 56,000-something, I assume fall chum and
12 coho that went up the -- or past somewhere on the
13 Kantishna, could you tell me where that was?

14

15 MR. TWITCHELL: The majority of the run
16 goes up the Toklat River into the Toklat Springs. With a
17 smaller segment of that going up the Kantishna River.
18 The point of the fishwheel that operates on the Kantishna
19 is about 10 miles below where the Bear Paw confluences
20 with the Kantishna River drainage and that's the point
21 source where that information is gathered. Which
22 particular stream beds those salmon are going to for
23 spawning were not entirely certain other than certainly
24 the Bear Paw and Moose Creek drainages would be probably
25 primary with several other smaller tributaries such as
26 White Creek would probably be the secondary area in the
27 Kantishna.

28

29 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, that's what I
30 was wondering.

31

32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more questions
33 for Hollis.

34

35 (No comments)

36

37 MR. TWITCHELL: If you were interested in
38 the four years of data that's come from the Kantishna
39 River drainage I could summarize that fairly briefly for
40 you.

41

42 MR. UMPHENOUR: That would be good.

43

44 MR. TWITCHELL: On the Kantishna River,
45 through the mark/capture release program in 1999, the
46 point estimate for the Kantishna River system was 27,199,
47 in 2000 the estimate was 21,450, in 2001 the numbers were
48 22,9992 and then last year the numbers jumped fairly
49 significantly up to the 56,665. And as Fred mentioned,
50 even with that increased escapement coming into the

00225

1 Toklat River system, it still fell below the State's
2 escapement goals for that Toklat River drainage.

3

4 MS. WAGGONER: Are these numbers for the
5 Kantishna or for the Toklat as a whole?

6

7 MR. TWITCHELL: The Kantishna as a whole.

8

9 MS. WAGGONER: Okay.

10

11 MR. TWITCHELL: I think the Kantishna
12 field counts was 28,000 on the ground from their field
13 counts this year which is several thousand below the
14 escapement goal for the Toklat Springs area.

15

16 MR. UMPHENOUR: May I.

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

19

20 MR. UMPHENOUR: Yeah, I guess the Federal
21 government could not prosecute the guy that shot the
22 world record grizzly bear while they were driving their
23 swamp buggies up and down over the spawning fish, do they
24 have any authority for that? Because the State refused
25 to prosecute.

26

27 MR. TWITCHELL: That would certainly be
28 outside our jurisdiction. So there wouldn't be anything
29 where we could be involved with that. I did read
30 something just recently and maybe Fred can add to this
31 that -- and based on petitions to the Boone & Crockett
32 Club that particular record has been removed from the
33 record book because of questions on the ethics of that
34 particular hunt.

35

36 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. The
37 research biologist sent all that stuff to them and they
38 agreed that the bear was taken illegally even though our
39 district attorney in Fairbanks refused to prosecute.

40

41 Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What's next Donald.

44

45 MR. MIKE: I believe there's someone from
46 Wrangell-St. Elias.

47

48 MS. CELLARIOS: Mr. Chairman. I'm Barbara
49 Cellarios, subsistence coordinator for Wrangell-St. Elias
50 National Park.

00226

1 I've got a number of very brief items
2 that I want to bring to your attention and then I think
3 Mason Reid, our wildlife biologist also has some
4 information to give you.

5
6 The first thing is that this is my first
7 Eastern Interior RAC meeting, I joined the Park Service
8 in October and so you'll be seeing my face at these
9 meetings as the subsistence coordinator. I'm also a
10 cultural anthropologist.

11
12 The second item concerns durational
13 residency, this is a SRC proposal that both actually
14 Wrangell and Denali SRCs had requested regulation
15 requiring one year residence in the case of Wrangell
16 resident zone community prior to eligibility for
17 subsistence activities within the Park and that proposal
18 seems to have left the regional office and it's moving
19 its way up the chain to the Secretary of the Interior.
20 We're not sure where it's going to go. But there does
21 seem to be some movement on that particular proposal.

22
23 We are gearing up for a Back Country
24 Management Plan. We're not nearly as far as Denali, the
25 planning between the different Parks has been staged, but
26 that's something that's coming up for us. While this is
27 not specifically a subsistence plan, we are interested in
28 hearing from subsistence users about potential conflicts
29 between the kinds of activities that are in the Back
30 Country Management Plan and subsistence activities.

31
32 Another item concerns a traditional
33 ecological knowledge study that will be coming up in the
34 next year or so, it concerns large animals. And that
35 we've got a cooperative agreement with Bill Simeone with
36 ADF&G and Bill Simeone will be involved in that
37 particular study.

38
39 A year ago we added several upper Tanana
40 communities were added to the resident zone for Wrangell-
41 St. Elias National Park, those are communities within the
42 Eastern Interior region. Healy Lake, Dot Lake,
43 Tanacross, Tetlin and Northway and Park Staff have been
44 working with those communities to define borders for
45 those communities. Part of the regulation requires that
46 boundaries for the communities be established and so
47 we've been meeting with people from the communities about
48 that.

49
50 And the last item that I have on my list

00227

1 is SRC membership status. The Eastern Interior appointee
2 to Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence Resource Commission is
3 Chuck Miller and his appointment continues through
4 November of this year and so at the next meeting I expect
5 that we'll be asking you for action on that, either a
6 reappointment or a new appointment. But we don't need
7 any action at this time.

8

9 That concludes my report.

10

11 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any questions.

12

13 (No comments)

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead.

16

17 MR. REID: Council. Mr. Chair. Mason
18 Reid, wildlife biologist for Wrangell-St. Elias National
19 Park and Preserve. You asked earlier for an update on
20 Chisana Herd and its management and I have some
21 information.

22

23 In June of this year there was an
24 interagency meeting in Tok to discuss Chisana Herd
25 management. The people involved were Yukon Department of
26 the Environment, ADF&G, me representing Wrangell-St.
27 Elias, Yukon First Nation and Chisana residents. And
28 what we did is we provided some background to the herd to
29 the people involved and discussed what we want to achieve
30 with the herd and there was considerable discussion of
31 what we wanted to -- or how we wanted to achieve this.
32 And the conclusion from the meeting was that the
33 possibility of developing a captive rearing program on
34 Yukon lands would be investigated primarily by Rich
35 Varnell who has had an extensive history with the herd.

36

37 Also there was interest in increasing the
38 trapping of wolves, primarily on Yukon lands but also on
39 Park Service lands. There were some barriers to
40 effective wolf trapping on Yukon lands and the people
41 involved were going to look into trying to overcome some
42 of these barriers.

43

44 In December, right before Christmas, we
45 had another meeting, again, with the same players, Yukon
46 First Nations, Canadian Wildlife Service, Yukon
47 Department of Environment, myself, other people from
48 ADF&G, a researcher from USGS, Biological Resources
49 Division and basically we discussed a captive rearing
50 project that Rick Varnell from the Yukon Department of

00228

1 Environment had come up with. He obtained money from a
2 number of sources, Yukon First Nations, Canadian Wildlife
3 Service, and a few other areas to begin setting up this
4 captive rearing program. And basically what this captive
5 rearing program entails, it's a penned enclosure where we
6 will be -- or they're actually in the process as we speak
7 right now of either capturing or herding pregnant females
8 into this pen, keeping them penned up, keeping them
9 provisionally fed until one to two months post calving
10 with the goal of increasing calf recruitment into the
11 herd, that's been one of the main concerns.

12

13 So once the calves are at a certain age,
14 I think we're looking at at least one month, going to
15 drop the fence and theoretically the cows will migrate on
16 to Native summer range in Wrangell-St. Elias. This is a
17 pilot study this year. We're looking at detaining 10 to
18 15 cows, seeing how it goes. We're going to be putting
19 radio collars on them to monitor both their movements and
20 calf survivorship. In addition, the Yukon Territorial
21 government has changed some of the regulations around
22 trapping which would facilitate increased trapping in the
23 area -- in the range of the Chisana Herd.

24

25 So as I mentioned the captive rearing
26 program is progressing as we speak. The pen has been
27 erected and they're in the process of capturing cows
28 right now and I think that's where Craig Gardner is right
29 now and hopefully I can get involved with that next week.

30

31 From the Park, what I am doing is
32 contributing money to a monitoring program to find out
33 the effectiveness of this captive rearing program and I
34 have written up a funding proposal for multi-year project
35 to follow up on this to find out how effective this
36 program is, if it works, and if it does work that opens
37 up some other avenues -- like I said, this year it's a
38 pilot project, if it works it's never been tried with
39 caribou, if it works and it's found effective then, you
40 know, that will increase the chances of getting
41 additional resources to put into it.

42

43 Been in contact with USGS BRD as well as
44 the Alaska Regional Office in trying to get support from
45 them and things are looking good from both of them. The
46 Regional Office may have money to support some of these
47 monitoring efforts and the biological resources division
48 of USGS is going to be involved in this at varying
49 levels.

50

00229

1 MR. UMPHENOUR: Okay. I assume you're
2 going to have these cows with the newborn calves penned
3 up, are you going to have someone on guard duty or
4 something to keep the predators away from them?

5
6 MR. REID: Yes, there is -- my
7 understanding is that there's a pen complete with an
8 electric fence and either two to four people on guard
9 throughout the period. These are First Nations --
10 primarily First Nation people as well as Yukon Department
11 of Environment, and they will be living there for, I
12 think, a month to six weeks at a time so there will be
13 somebody there throughout the penning process.

14
15 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16
17 MS. WAGGONER: On the radio collars that
18 you guys are putting on, are they satellite or just
19 regular telemetry?

20
21 MR. REID: They're conventional VHF radio
22 collars so we can locate them via fixed wing airplane or
23 also helicopter.

24
25 MS. WAGGONER: Thank you.

26
27 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
28 Is there any hope of - I understand this, we were talking
29 to Rick Varnell while I was in Canada for surgery and he
30 said that it would be taking place in Canada, is there
31 any hope that it would happen in the Wrangell-St. Elias
32 on the Alaska side?

33
34 MR. REID: Well, Yukon -- to back up a
35 little bit, I first learned of -- I mean I've only been
36 here for a little over a year and a half and I first
37 learned the predicament of this herd in June, you know,
38 immediately prior to this meeting and actually I learned
39 a lot at the meeting. And it was decided then to let
40 Yukon look into doing that primarily because he has
41 expertise, Rick Varnell has been doing work with the
42 Chisana herd for a number of years but the main thing is
43 that they could implement this much more quickly than I
44 ever could and that was a topic of discussion.

45
46 The National Park Service is -- we have
47 environmental compliance requirements that have to be met
48 so for us to do something like that it would take a
49 considerable amount more time to effect than the Yukon.
50 So if this works on the Yukon then as I mentioned earlier

00230

1 it opens up some avenues both for funding as well as more
2 direction and more active management.

3

4 MS. ENTSMINGER: So would it open funding
5 to do something on the Alaska side or not?

6

7 MR. REID: It depends on what really.
8 The possibility of some type of active management program
9 would be like this, a captive rearing program. I think
10 it's possible. It has requirements that would have to be
11 met that would allow us to do that. You know, I'm
12 familiar with the process, the end result I can't say.

13

14 But I think if it works in the Yukon,
15 then -- and the Yukon has that additional expertise it
16 would probably more effective to keep it in the Yukon,
17 you know, simpler and at least as effective.

18

19 MS. ENTSMINGER: Rick had mentioned to
20 Frank and I that a lot of the calves are being born on
21 the Alaska side so it was a concern that maybe more work
22 could be done on that side to help with the herd quicker.

23

24 MR. REID: Yeah -- yeah, I don't know at
25 this point what we can do. I'm not saying there's
26 nothing that we can do, I just don't know what we can do.
27 I'd like to see if the captive rearing program even
28 works first. And if it doesn't work then there's very
29 little chance that we could do it on our side. If it
30 does work, then, you know, there might be a possibility.
31 I just can't say whether that would work or not.

32

33 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Tricia.

34

35 MS. WAGGONER: Just one last thing, it
36 would be really nice if you could give us an update on
37 what happened at the next -- at the next fall meeting, if
38 that's at all possible.

39

40 MR. REID: Sure. Oh, yeah, that'd be
41 fine.

42

43 MS. WAGGONER: Thank you.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I take it you're not
46 requesting any kind of letter of support for funding or
47 anything from us?

48

49 MR. REID: I have lots of requests for
50 funding out there. And I don't know where the money is

00231

1 but I've asked for it.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, if we direct
4 our coordinator to write a letter of support for you, I
5 think I shall do that because it sounds like a good
6 project to me.

7

8 MR. REID: Yeah, I think the project has
9 a lot of merit to it. And both -- both scientifically as
10 well as on a conservation standpoint.

11

12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You'll just have to
13 give him certain information that he will need to write
14 the letter.

15

16 MR. REID: All right. I can do that, no
17 problem.

18

19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more questions.

20

21 (No comments)

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: What's next Donald.

24

25 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I don't see any
26 other National Park Service folks to present. And
27 finally on the agency reports, other agencies or groups,
28 if they wish to make any presentations to the Council.

29

30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You want to say
31 something.

32

33 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll
34 try to be brief. Tanana Chief's Conference, of course,
35 represents the 42 villages in the Interior Region. As
36 such we have some very high concerns about the state of
37 the fisheries. As Mr. Andersen pointed out, our
38 subsistence catch over the last few years has dropped
39 dramatically and we were -- are in support of the
40 provisions that you guys have adopted and will be
41 submitting to the Board.

42

43 We will also be submitting some of our
44 own proposals, while we haven't completely got those
45 fleshed out yet, I need to sit down with Buddy and those
46 guys and talk to them about that.

47

48 I probably will also be taking up the
49 offer to get a call in and tell them that the proposals
50 will be forthcoming next week so that I don't have to try

00232

1 and get them together by Friday. I appreciate that offer
2 and I'm going to take full advantage of it.

3
4 The other thing the Tanana Chief's is
5 involved in is, of course, is we do some cooperative
6 agreements with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game
7 and Fish and Wildlife Service. We have two projects now.
8 I'd like to go ahead and take this time, I guess, to
9 introduce Kim Elkin who is our fisheries biologist under
10 the Fisheries Partnership and Monitoring Program. She is
11 primarily going to do a large portion of the -- we have
12 two projects right now in conjunction with Caroline Brown
13 at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game through funding
14 with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Those two projects
15 are non-salmon fish surveys in the GASH villages and non-
16 salmon fish surveys in the Koyukuk villages.

17
18 Both of those projects are in various
19 stages of completion. We've done some surveys, we've
20 done some training, had some survey's done and I think
21 we're in the process of getting those surveys back and
22 compiling them this year.

23
24 Additionally, the GASH villages, what we
25 will be doing is some big game harvest surveys in those
26 villages as well at that time.

27
28 Additionally, we have two projects that
29 we hope to put together for funding through the FIS in
30 the upcoming year. One will be -- maybe I'll go ahead
31 and let Kim talk to those two proposals.

32
33 But for right now, I guess, additionally,
34 Tanana Chief's as pointed out earlier, sits on the Alaska
35 Migratory Bird Council so if there are some concerns in
36 regards to what is a new process for all of us, that is
37 the legalization of spring duck and goose hunting in this
38 state, we're no longer criminals, which is going to be
39 fine but it's also going to have its problems and we're
40 going to have to work through those. And so in that
41 regard certainly if this community has any concerns or
42 wants to express anything to the Migratory Bird Council
43 I'd be more than happy to take those.

44
45 Additionally, I'll be the State rep --
46 one of two State representatives to the Central Flyway
47 Council at which we're going to be bringing some
48 proposals. Our major concern in the Interior right now
49 is whitefronted geese and the decline in whitefronted
50 geese. Some Refuge work being done out of Galena has

00233

1 provided us some really good information and I'd like to
2 commend them for that right now. I hope to take that
3 information to the Central Flyway Council in the hopes
4 that they would -- the information generally indicates
5 that the Interior -- these geese -- goose population is
6 one of the first ones to head south in the summer. They
7 end up in Canada at which time they get hit hard on
8 sportshunting season. A couple weeks later the rest of
9 the northern -- whitefronted geese end up in that area,
10 they co-mingle and then go further south. We are hoping
11 to try to get the Canadian government to postpone their
12 sportshunting season until all the whitefronted geese
13 have landed and not just hit ours and hopefully that will
14 bring the populations back up.

15

16 What else?

17

18 I guess TCC's role has expanded
19 considerably over the years. We used to just have to
20 deal with the State of Alaska Fish and Game Advisory
21 Councils and now we have to deal with both the State and
22 the Feds and it gets rather complex sometimes and
23 certainly I am the only one right now in Wildlife Parks
24 Division at Tanana Chiefs Conference. We're working on
25 trying to alleviate that and possibly bring on a big game
26 biologist as well and expand some of our fisheries stuff
27 and so on and so forth.

28

29 With that, I guess, I'd go ahead and turn
30 it over to Kim a little bit to talk about the two
31 projects we hopefully put together for next year as well
32 as what we hopefully -- some ideas about some things we
33 might do this summer in regards to the -- tell them about
34 the internship and stuff.

35

36 MS. ELKIN: Hi, I'm Kim Elkin. And I'm
37 actually part of the Partners in Fisheries Monitoring
38 Program, one of their fisheries biologist for Tanana
39 Chiefs.

40

41 And just to kind of touch briefly on the
42 two non-salmon projects in the Koyukuk and GASH villages.
43 Those two are existing with FIS before Mike and I got
44 there. But we have picked up on that and we actually
45 hired 11 local hires from the GASH region and Koyukuk
46 region to do those non-salmon harvest surveys. And we
47 also are in the process of getting some money to do some
48 big game harvest surveys including like Kaltag, Tanana,
49 Ruby and so we'll be hiring like seven new local hires.
50 So that's kind of what we're trying to go towards, is

00234

1 capacity building and getting local hires and people to
2 help us out on these projects.

3

4 And as far as developing some
5 investigation plans, Caroline Brown with Fish and Game
6 and also Joe Schlasman with CATG and I will be developing
7 an investigation plan for a Science Camp in Fort Yukon.
8 We haven't really worked out the details yet but we're
9 going to start working on that here. And also another
10 one that Caroline Brown submitted that TCC's going to
11 help out with, well, we got to develop an IP for it and
12 see if it gets funded is middle river non-salmon harvest
13 surveys. So hopefully those two projects will get funded
14 at the next cycle, 2004.

15

16 And as far as projects for the summer,
17 Mike and I have been talking about getting some age, sex,
18 length data from various fish camps and comparing Lower
19 River and Upper River data on that and we contacted Phil
20 Demientieff in the Holy Cross region and Fred Huntington
21 in Galena and they are willing to help us get the number
22 of fish camps, and maybe get a local hire -- actually one
23 of the family members from the fish camps to collect this
24 data for us and hopefully keep it going, you know, for
25 the next few years so we can kind of see what's going on
26 and that will help us with this whole mesh size issue on
27 the river.

28

29 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It seems like you
30 guys have been talking, referring to the Western Interior
31 mostly, and that, is anything going to happen in the
32 Eastern Interior concerning TCC and these moose count
33 projects and everything else?

34

35 MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, the big game
36 harvest surveys, the Holy Cross area has had one recently
37 done and we are -- hopefully the one that we will be
38 doing there will add to that one that was done 10 or 12
39 years ago, so we'll have a really good picture as to the
40 big game subsistence harvest.

41

42 The one in the Middle Yukon, I believe
43 was just identified, the up river stuff, we have the fish
44 camp going on in Fort Yukon. But as far as other
45 specific projects go we felt kind of odd in the sense
46 that we felt like we needed to work with CATG and those
47 people to get together on some projects up there and we
48 certainly hope to work towards that goal. Certainly Joe
49 Schlosman is here and we look forward to working with
50 him. And certainly I want to -- you know, to take the

00235

1 initiative to go up to the Fort Yukon area and try to
2 rebuild some of the bridges that may have collapsed over
3 the years up there and start working cooperatively again.

4
5 But as for right now, we have no specific
6 big game harvest surveys going on up there.

7
8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I know my boss Julie
9 Roberts has been trying to get a moose survey through the
10 State, even trying through the Federal, maybe you could
11 talk to her because she's more or less my boss back in
12 Tanana. We've been trying to do our own estimated --
13 through friends I have and through our deal, but it would
14 never pass through the State Board of Game -- it will
15 never be accepted to the State or Federal systems because
16 it's not done by their people and may not be done by
17 their standards, but if we had like -- Julie had
18 something like TCCs within our -- since we're in the
19 region, do something like a moose survey harvest so we
20 have something to back us up when we do put moose
21 proposals or something, moose restric -- hunting
22 restrictions.

23
24 Because every time that we do something
25 like that, Don Young, from the Alaska Department of Fish
26 and Game office always say you guys don't have no surveys
27 or something like that to that effect.

28
29 MS. BROWN: Mr. Chair. I'm Caroline
30 Brown with Fish and Game. In terms of a moose survey,
31 Tanana has been included on a four or five year existing
32 program, Tanana and communities on the Koyukuk and in the
33 middle Yukon region have been included on a big game
34 survey. And this.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Excuse me, you might
37 not be understanding what I'm talking about, I mean a
38 moose count.

39
40 MS. BROWN: Okay.

41
42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No.....

43
44 MR. BROWN: That's what I wanted to
45 clarify, because, right the harvest surveys are
46 happening, the moose count, somebody else would have to
47 speak to that.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, that's what
50 we're kind of shooting for and I was just trying to

00236

1 allude to that point.

2

3 MR. SMITH: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I'm not
4 sure -- I haven't had the opportunity to try to get the
5 Department to do moose surveys yet. However, I do know
6 that their money or problems are as tight as ours and
7 certainly we could put in a request to try to get them to
8 do that. We would be more than happy to join with the
9 village council and drafting letters on your request in
10 order to do that.

11

12 In addition, one other thing that I think
13 I'd like to bring up here at this point is in regards to
14 what you were talking about, the information that we have
15 in order to possibly counter some of the stuff that the
16 Alaska Department of Fish and Game comes up with. We're
17 aware of that problem and there are some things we're
18 trying to do to facilitate that. One of the things, of
19 course, is Kim's process -- Kim's funding under the
20 partnership program to build that type of capacity, and
21 hopefully we'll be able to build some of our own capacity
22 to get those types of information.

23

24 Additionally we have a grant available to
25 us where we'll be developing our own data base at which
26 point we'll hope to have layers of subsistence data in
27 that data base, it will be all GIS based and we'll be
28 able to pinpoint exactly where the harvests are and the
29 numbers are and so forth. And that, of course, is a
30 couple of years down the road, but the process is
31 starting and hopefully in a year or so we'll be trying to
32 actively go out and seek harvest information from all our
33 villages so we could have it in our fingertips so that we
34 could bring those types of information to Fish and Game
35 meetings and committee meetings.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Virg.

38

39 MR. UMPHENOUR: My question is, on these
40 non-salmon studies, are you guys taking the opportunity
41 to maybe teach the people a little bit about the life
42 history of some of these species such as pike that live
43 and the grayling that live for a very long time and how
44 long it takes for them to get as big as they get?

45

46 MS. ELKIN: Mr. Chair. Virgil. Council.
47 We basically -- I just started in September so I'm trying
48 to work out a lot of the details as far as that. But we
49 haven't started educating these people about the life
50 histories in terms of that.

00237

1 But we actually provided an
2 identification key and Caroline can talk more about this
3 as to the different species and the different names that
4 people might use that say I wouldn't be familiar with,
5 like we all them burbot and out there they call them lush
6 so that kind of terminology. But if that's something
7 you'd like to see us do I'd be more than willing.

8
9 MR. SMITH: Caroline apparently something
10 to say.

11
12 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

13
14 MS. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
15 Umphenour. Those non-salmon surveys, the survey section
16 is actually only part of the project. The larger project
17 is a traditional ecological knowledge project in both the
18 Koyukuk River region and the GASH region. And that's
19 actually the bulk of the project collecting local
20 knowledge on life histories and life histories of, I
21 think it's seven species or 10 species if you include all
22 the different species of whitefish. So looking at life
23 histories and fishing practices and so on and so forth.

24
25 And with the GASH project specifically --
26 well, let me back up for a moment. Part of the
27 justification of that which Polly mentioned yesterday was
28 that there's a concern that non-salmon species are --
29 well, they're already important but are going to have
30 increasing importance with decreasing salmon runs. And
31 so we want to be prepared with that information and be
32 comprehensive about it. So we're working very closely
33 with elders and knowledgeable fishermen in those regions,
34 in those communities to collect that information and
35 those are several year projects, two and three projects.

36
37 The Koyukuk River project is about three-
38 quarters finished and if you're interested in seeing any
39 of that I can certainly provide that to you in draft
40 form. And the GASH one we're just really starting. And
41 with the GASH project specifically there is a third
42 component that's being handled mostly by John Burr in the
43 Sportfish Division of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
44 dealing specifically with pike. There are some user
45 conflicts out in that area, in the Holy Cross region, and
46 he's running a third component that deals with life
47 history of that fish and sex and aging and measuring of
48 those fish and he's working actually with the schools out
49 in those villages to do some of that work this summer.
50 And it's complimenting a tagging project on pike in that

00238

1 region.

2

3 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you.

4

5 MR. SMITH: Virgil, additionally our
6 project that we have working on an IP for right now for
7 the middle Yukon River villages, we're kind of
8 approaching it in a different manner, hopefully. We
9 haven't really worked out the full details yet but we're
10 approaching it in a different fashion in this regard.

11

12 Historically what has happened, you know,
13 Fish and Game or somebody will hire somebody to go out
14 and take fish surveys, they'll bring them to town,
15 they'll get trained and then they'll go out to the
16 village and they'll walk around the village and they'll
17 take those surveys and then they'll come back or send the
18 surveys in. We thought that was a missed opportunity.
19 And one of the things that we hope to develop into our
20 future proposals is actually doing those type of surveys
21 and doing that training through the schools to the local
22 schools. And from our perspective it does a couple of
23 things.

24

25 One is it allows the school children, the
26 upper class level children, you know, not the grade
27 school children of course, but the upper level of
28 children to interact with the elders in the sense that
29 they would be the ones going to get the TEK knowledge and
30 getting those interviews, so there's that interaction
31 between the younger generations and the older
32 generations.

33

34 Additionally, we think that we'd probably
35 get a little better accurate information if we do it that
36 way.

37

38 Thirdly, we hope that it builds some
39 sense of a partner -- that it becomes part of a
40 curriculum that seeks to educate the people in the rural
41 areas and the villages on subsistence matters and issues
42 which would include life history stuff but also how these
43 surveys and stuff interact with State regulation, how the
44 number of moose they got this year is going to help
45 determine how many moose they get next year how many fish
46 they get this year is going to help determine how many
47 fish they get next year and to show that linkage and to
48 show that interaction and how all this information
49 affects their daily life, their hunting, their
50 subsistence way of life.

00239

1 So we hope to do that and additionally,
2 if we do start that process and it comes -- and it works
3 and we are successful at it, then hopefully that will
4 become a yearly subsistence curriculum aspect of the
5 school district at which point we'll be able to get that
6 harvest survey information on a yearly basis from the
7 school kids as part of a subsistence curriculum developed
8 for the schools.

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Are we done?

11
12 MR. SMITH: I hope so, too.

13
14 (Laughter)

15
16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, that concludes
17 the list of agency reports -- oh, I'm sorry, Ida
18 Hildebrand.

19
20 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Ida.

21
22 MS. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 BIA Staff Committee member. Just two points for your
24 information.

25
26 One, the BIA is creating a series of
27 videotapes on subsistence for Councils and village users
28 to better understand the program. And hopefully to
29 develop into a CD-ROM Program that you can incorporate
30 into the school to do some of the stuff that Michael is
31 suggesting to generate an interest in fisheries and
32 science and educate the local people about it.

33
34 The second point is on the subsistence
35 use amounts protocol. If you've forgotten about it we
36 need to address that, so I just wanted to refresh your
37 mind or if you'd like me to present that I could present
38 that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: That subsistence use
41 monitoring protocol I totally forgot about it. But if
42 we're going to be like the first ones to see it I think
43 we just kind of went through too much already but we'd
44 probably be ready for it next fall, if that's all right
45 with you.

46
47 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

48
49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Because it's just in
50 its early stages.

00240

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman. And
2 also for your personal information I have begun the first
3 draft of the educational materials that go with it and
4 that will be presented at our next meeting in April.

5
6 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Thank you, Ida.

7
8 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, is there any
9 other agency out there that wanted to present.

10
11 MR. SMITH: Just one more thing.

12
13 (Laughter)

14
15 MR. SMITH: Once again, Mike Smith of
16 Tanana Chiefs Conference. There is a little report in
17 your handout behind Tab E, behind the paper on customary
18 trade and the paper on rural determination, there's a
19 little briefing on the draft regulatory coordination
20 protocols. And TCC has some concerns as to the direction
21 that this protocol is developing right now. The State
22 and Federal Boards coordination section which is on Page
23 270 seeks to develop a joint Federal/State Board of Fish
24 and a joint Federal/State Board of Game. The joint
25 committees will be made up of three people each from each
26 board.

27
28 That has us concerned a little bit in the
29 sense that right now if that was to be implemented today
30 we would have, for example, three people from the current
31 Board of Fish, which may or may not be subsistence
32 friendly, with three Federal bureaucrats who do
33 subsistence as a side-arm of their regular job deciding
34 subsistence matters. We have concerns about that and
35 there wouldn't be no subsistence representation on those
36 boards.

37
38 So we have some concerns about how the
39 regulatory coordination protocol is developing and
40 certainly we'll have some comments to that at a future
41 time.

42
43 This is just their initial draft but we
44 have real concerns about where that's heading.

45
46 Additionally, it would be just another
47 layer between these people and the Boards and we just
48 don't think that that's appropriate.

49
50 Thank you, Mr. Chair.

00241

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: No more agencies or
2 any more tribal things, anybody want to say anything to
3 us.

4
5 (No comments)

6
7 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on Donald.

8
9 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, the last thing
10 on the agenda is the list of the correspondence received
11 and sent.

12
13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think we'll take a
14 little short break first.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Okay.

17
18 (Off record)

19
20 (On record)

21
22 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead Donald.

23
24 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I got copies of the
25 Denali National Park and Preserve Draft Back Country
26 Management Plan for our records in the office and there's
27 some more copies on the back of the table if you guys
28 need a copy. Or if you want a copy of this plan I can
29 send them out to you.

30
31 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: That will be fine.
32 If we want it we can request it from you.

33
34 MR. MIKE: Okay.

35
36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay.

37
38 MR. MIKE: And I'll get more copies of --
39 or I'll have Denali send them out to you.

40
41 The next item on the agenda is the
42 correspondence received and sent and it's under Tab F.
43 And I have all the correspondence in the folder if you
44 guys need to read them over or if you need copies sent to
45 you. I know the Chair and Council should get a CC copy
46 every time we do some correspondence.

47
48 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: That was all that we
49 had received and sent in 2002?

50

00242

1 MR. MIKE: That's right, Mr. Chair.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Anybody got any
4 heartburn, complaints, comments on these received and
5 sent letters.

6

7 (No comments)

8

9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Move on.

10

11 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, the next item is
12 the elections of officers.

13

14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, wait.

15

16 MR. MIKE: Hold on.

17

18 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Go ahead, Jim.

19

20 MR. WILDE: Mr. Chair, move we maintain
21 status quo.

22

23 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We don't have an
24 elected vice chair.

25

26 (Pause - off record comments)

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: There was a move.

29

30 MR. TITUS: Second.

31

32 MR. WILDE: Question.

33

34 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Okay, I guess, it's
35 been moved and seconded and question called to remain the
36 status quo of the officers of the Eastern Interior
37 Regional Advisory Council. All those in favor signify by
38 saying aye.

39

40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41

42 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed,
43 same sign.

44

45 (No opposing votes)

46

47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion passes.

48

49 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, the next item is
50 the future meeting plans and at the back of your book

00243

1 after Tab F, the last page you have your fall 2003
2 Regional Advisory Council meeting window and at your last
3 meeting in Fairbanks you made tentative arrangements to
4 meet during the week of October 5th and please keep in
5 mind that we have Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Western
6 Interior Council that we share Staff with. So Mr. Rivard
7 would like to speak on the window schedule.

8

9 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, Don Rivard. I
10 would just like to put out for your consideration a
11 request from our office that you consider moving your
12 fall meeting a couple weeks to the week of September 22nd
13 through the 26. Just a consideration.

14

15 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Don. In those weeks
16 you're talking about most of us will be out on the river
17 hunting.

18

19 MR. RIVARD: I understand. I needed to
20 ask.

21

22 MR. UMPHENOUR: That's correct. Sue and
23 I will be out in the field. I know I will, I think she
24 will too.

25

26 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think most of our
27 Board will be out there moose hunting in the time
28 allowed.

29

30 MR. MIKE: We still need to decide during
31 the week of October 6th when exactly the Council would
32 like to meet in Beaver and I'd recommend that we have a
33 full day of travel dedicated to travel to Beaver and
34 another full day to travel back home.

35

36 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I think we should
37 support that Donald.

38

39 MR. MIKE: Pardon me, Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: We would support
42 that.

43

44 MR. MIKE: Okay. The Council needs to
45 determine what day during the week of October 6th through
46 the 10th. Any time during that week, either October 6th,
47 7th, 8th, 9th or 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th.

48

49 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: How about the 8th and
50 9th.

00244

1 MR. MIKE: Okay, it will be October 8th
2 and 9th with the travel date on October 7th and October
3 10th.

4
5 MS. WAGGONER: Mr. Rivard, is there any
6 way at all, I mean when you look through all the
7 subsistence regulation that, you know, September is moose
8 season, is there any way to move this meeting window at
9 all into October because I mean for myself, it's still,
10 you know, it's moose season, it's caribou season, it's
11 still getting fish and it just really puts a constrain on
12 us.

13
14 MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair. Trisha, I hear
15 your comments and your concerns. We are going to discuss
16 that in our office as well, internally, to see if we can
17 move the meeting window dates, and I'll let you know what
18 the results are in the next meeting. But, you know, we
19 got all sorts of things going on, there's AFN convention
20 usually like the next week, the mid-week in October, so
21 we -- that's usually a bad time as well for people so
22 we'll try.

23
24 Again, we're going to look at it again
25 and see if there's some way we can change these dates for
26 -- it seems problematic for the fall. The winter
27 meetings there's more flexibility with just about all 10
28 regions.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You know, in the fall
33 moose hunting season, especially in the Eastern Interior
34 is that it's over on the 25th in all the regions, right,
35 Virg.

36
37 MR. STEVENS: Not mine.

38
39 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Not yours.

40
41 MR. STEVENS: 25(D) west is open to
42 February.

43
44 MS. ENTSMINGER: Caribou is open to the
45 30th.

46
47 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Do you mean you got
48 open season from like September 1st to February whatever?

49
50 MR. STEVENS: Yes.

00245

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: In 25(D) west, but
2 you would be allowed to come here between September 21st
3 and October 10th, though, right, you got until -- after
4 that.....

5
6 MR. STEVENS: It depends on my luck.

7
8 (Laughter)

9
10 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, I was just
11 alluding to the point that that would be our most
12 preferable open window dates is September 25th to October
13 10th for the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council.
14 Go ahead, Virg.

15
16 MR. UMPHENOUR: The 25th is actually
17 pushing it because a lot of the area, the season ends on
18 the 25th, or part of the area it does and if you're in
19 the field on the 25th, you can't get back to town and
20 then get to a meeting. You need, you know, three or four
21 days to get out of the field. And so for me that really
22 pushes it. Because I normally -- I have 700 miles to
23 drive my boat to get back to Fairbanks, and the season
24 ends on the 25th. That takes normally three days, if the
25 wind's blowing four days. If there's bad weather it
26 takes longer.

27
28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Well, in
29 consideration of that, it would be September 30th through
30 October 10th or if like you said you could move it into
31 October or whatever, 17th or whatever, where it won't be
32 conflicting with other meeting things, like AFN or TCC or
33 something that we'd like to know that.

34
35 MS. ENTSMINGER: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
36 On this Page 278, where it says all the -- avoid
37 conflicts with Southcentral, Kodiak/Aleutians, Yukon and
38 Kuskokwim and Western Interior, is that correct, that you
39 share Staff with all four of those?

40
41 MR. RIVARD: Yes, we do. And that's why
42 I at least had to ask for the change because there are a
43 couple of conflicts in that week that you've chosen, but
44 we'll just go with the dates that you've picked now.
45 That's what we're trying to do. We've also changed Staff
46 a little bit recently where Pat Petrivelli is now with
47 your Council and she is not the anthropologist for the
48 other, Yukon and Kuskokwim Council, but she does cover
49 Southcentral and Kodiak/Aleutians. So those are the
50 reasons why those are now considered, so we can get all

00246

1 the team members here to your Council meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, you're going to
4 have to remember something, too, Don, that we bowed to
5 you in the last two meeting locations, too, for that so I
6 think you guys kind of owe us one.

7

8 MR. RIVARD: I will say that what we're
9 doing with the next one, in the winter, those -- it
10 doesn't look like there's going to be any problem, but
11 the reason why we're doing it now is so that we can come
12 back to you in the fall, if there are some problems, then
13 we will say is it possible to change dates or something
14 like that. So this gives us a head's up a year ahead of
15 time and that's what we're doing now with the fall, next
16 meeting, because we've got the dates already, so I
17 appreciate your considering these things anyways.

18

19 MR. MIKE: So Mr. Chairman, does the
20 Council agree on October 7th through 10th for your fall
21 meeting in Beaver.

22

23 (Council Nods Affirmatively)

24

25 MR. MIKE: Okay. So the next item is to
26 plan for the winter meeting, the window meeting is
27 February 18th through March 21st. I handed out an updated
28 current window, meeting window for all our Regional
29 Councils.

30

31 So the Council needs to determine where
32 they're going to have their next winter meeting. We
33 haven't met in Upper Tanana region for awhile so that's
34 one consideration, but it's up to the Council. Mr.
35 Chair.

36

37 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: You're asking us what
38 dates to choose and what village?

39

40 MR. MIKE: Yes. For the winter 2004
41 Regional Advisory Council meeting.

42

43 (Pause)

44

45 MR. MIKE: Just keep in mind, Mr. Chair,
46 that the Western Interior will be meeting March 9th and
47 10th. Southcentral March 9th through 11th. YK March 2nd
48 through the 4th.

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: That's kind of

00247

1 looking far ahead, though, Donald, but we're pretty much
2 looking at February 3rd to February 27th [sic], 2004 for
3 our winter meeting so we don't conflict with Staff just
4 looking at that.

5

6 MR. MIKE: And the location.

7

8 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Where would you guys
9 like to meet in 2004 in February?

10

11 (Off record comments regarding location)

12

13 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I don't think
14 they have the housing buildings in Manley unless we have
15 some people to stay with. Like the only place that would
16 be open is the Manley Lodge and it has limited housing.
17 I'm just saying that Manley has limited housing. We'll
18 have people -- we'll be waiting for people that drives
19 along the Elliott Highway from Fairbanks or something
20 because there wouldn't be hardly any housing there is my
21 conclusion about Manley.

22

23 MR. MIKE: Just a primary place to have
24 your meeting and an alternate location also in case the
25 primary location doesn't work out we can just always get
26 to the alternate location.

27

28 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: See we're meeting
29 here in Nenana, we're going to meet in Beaver, I'd like
30 to keep the meetings floating around within the region.
31 There's hardly any Federal lands around Tanana. Hardly
32 anybody in Rampart that could house us, Manley is out of
33 the question. How about the Upper Tanana region, where
34 could we go up there?

35

36 MS. WAGGONER: We could meet Tanacross,
37 Tok or Northway for Upper Tanana. There's meeting
38 facilities in all three and Tok has plenty of housing.

39

40 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Tok or Northway.

41

42 MR. TITUS: I make a motion we meet in
43 Northway for next winter.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Is there a second and
46 question.

47

48 MS. WAGGONER: Second.

49

50 MR. WILDE: Question.

00248

1 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: It's been moved
2 seconded and question called to have our 2004 meeting in
3 February in Northway with the alternate place being Tok.

4
5 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

6
7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8
9 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: All those opposed,
10 same sign.

11
12 (No opposing votes)

13
14 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion carries.

15
16 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chairman, your final
17 agenda is Council closing comments.

18
19 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: I'd like to thank the
20 community here in Nenana and all the Staff agencies, from
21 the Federal and State and people that came up and spoke
22 to us. At times it seems difficult, pointing fingers and
23 stuff, but at times I think that needs to be done.

24
25 We're facing difficult situations here
26 for the people who we represent and I know at times it
27 gets very heated here and there but it's good to do it
28 now. I come to the learning point in this six year
29 endeavor is that every time you defer something or oppose
30 it you're going to see it again in the next meeting, so
31 that's why I always want to deal with it now instead of
32 later, than have to -- waste the time now -- waste a
33 couple hours of this meeting dealing with one issue only
34 to oppose it or defer it and then see it again, that's
35 two hours wasted of the meeting time. So I really like
36 to take care of stuff at hand now, than try to deal with
37 it again and have something else pop up and throw a
38 monkey wrench into it.

39
40 I really appreciate the agency people,
41 Russ Holder and Fred Bue, taking all my crap all the
42 time. I'd like to tell Donald to write a letter of thank
43 you to the Nenana Tribal Council and the people who let
44 us use this hall here and facilities.

45
46 Thank you guys for being here.

47
48 Anybody else.

49
50 MR. UMPHENOUR: The only -- we have some

00249

1 proposals that have to be submitted here real quick and
2 being's I'm going to be participating in writing them,
3 who is going to be helping me?

4

5 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair. I can help and we
6 have Staff in our office to help Virgil out, too. If we
7 can have -- I think Jerry Berg will be able to help and
8 Mr. DeMatteo, so we have plenty of Staff to help out with
9 the proposals.

10

11 MR. UMPHENOUR: So should I call you
12 tomorrow or should I draft something up or are you guys
13 going to draft something up or just call tomorrow and
14 we'll figure it out or what?

15

16 MR. MIKE: I'll have Mr. Jerry Berg
17 answer your question, Mr. Umphenour.

18

19 MR. BERG: Mr. Chair. Virgil. This is
20 Jerry Berg, yeah, I think I've tried to capture the
21 intent of your proposals, Virgil, and I'd like to maybe
22 talk to you at the end of the meeting to make sure we've
23 got the intent and then we could probably take a first
24 stab at the draft and then maybe fax something up to you
25 and start working with you at that point to get the final
26 wording worked out. As long as we get something in by
27 Friday as a placeholder then we can work out the final
28 adjustments in the next week or so.

29

30 MR. UMPHENOUR: Thank you, that sounds
31 good.

32

33 MR. MIKE: And, Mr. Chairman, if I can
34 get Mr. Umphenour's schedule so we can send him the draft
35 if we're completed with it. You're going to be in the
36 North Pole, right, Mr. Virgil?

37

38 MR. UMPHENOUR: You can reach me at my
39 office number at the fish plant in Fairbanks. I'm not
40 planning on going anywhere for a little bit, the next two
41 weeks I should be okay, I hope.

42

43 MR. MIKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

44

45 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Any more closing
46 comments or concerns.

47

48 (No comments)

49

50 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Yeah, I'd like to

00250

1 mention to Mitch Demientieff for not like really dabbling
2 into our business. I know we're just like the first level
3 and then it goes to the next level so I sure appreciate
4 that and let him know that, you know.

5

6 Again, is there anything else you guys
7 want to say.

8

9 (No comments)

10

11 MR. MIKE: Mr. Chair, I'd like to thank
12 the Council for their hard work and we got a lot of
13 business done today. If our public, before you leave,
14 please pick up around your chairs and throw it in the
15 garbage.

16

17 Thank you.

18

19 MS. WAGGONER: I make a motion to
20 adjourn.

21

22 MR. TITUS: Second.

23

24 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Motion to adjourn.

25

26 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

27

28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29

30 CHAIRMAN NICHOLIA: Adjourned.

31

32 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

00251

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

4) ss.

5 STATE OF ALASKA)

6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the state of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix
9 Court Reporters, LLC do hereby certify:

10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 140 through 250
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the
13 EASTERN INTERIOR FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY
14 COUNCIL MEETING, VOLUME II taken electronically by
15 Nathaniel Hile on the 26th day of March 2003, beginning
16 at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at Nenana, Alaska;

17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
21 the best of our knowledge and ability;

22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
24 interested in any way in this action.

25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 4th day of April
27 2003.

28

29

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31

32

33

34

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04 ☐